



THE

TIMES

No 62,949

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1987

(25p)

# BA tries to woo B-Cal with £200m Scandinavian offer still appeals most to workers

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, and Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

British Airways tried to woo British Caledonian shareholders away from a deal with SAS yesterday by adding £81 million in cash to its previous offer.

Less than 24 hours after the Scandinavian airline had made a formal bid for a minority stake in B-Cal, British Airways produced a counter proposal which pushed the value of their cash offer up from £119 million to £200 million.

At B-Cal's Gatwick base, however, staff were said to be "euphoric" over the proposed link-up with SAS. Fewer jobs are likely to be lost if the Scandinavian proposal, rather than British Airways', is accepted.

The new British Airways offer values each B-Cal share at £9.72, one pence less than its original bid. The SAS offer values each share at £20.44.

## Shares fall on record US deficit

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Share prices and the dollar plunged yesterday after a record US trade deficit was announced, prompting fears of a second wave of selling.

The US trade deficit rose to \$17.63 billion in October from \$14.1 billion in September. The figures, much worse than analysts had expected, sent shudders through the markets.

The FT-SE 100 index dropped sharply, falling more than 50 points, but recovered to close 19.7 points lower at 1,619.6. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average recovered earlier losses, rising 8.62 points at 1,911.14.

Central banks stepped in to support the dollar but could not prevent it hitting record lows against the yen. It closed below ¥130 for the first time, ending ¥129.45 on the day at ¥129.45.

European investors lost nearly 30 per cent on the shares in the first day of trading. The shares, offered at 350p, closed at 250p.

Markets hit, page 19

## Share muddle

An administrative muddle has led to share certificates and dividend payments being sent to 15,000 investors who have already sold their shares in Rolls-Royce. Page 19

## Broker sold

Minet, the Lloyd's insurance broker, saw its share price rise 175p after accepting a £400 million cash bid from a big US shareholder. Page 19

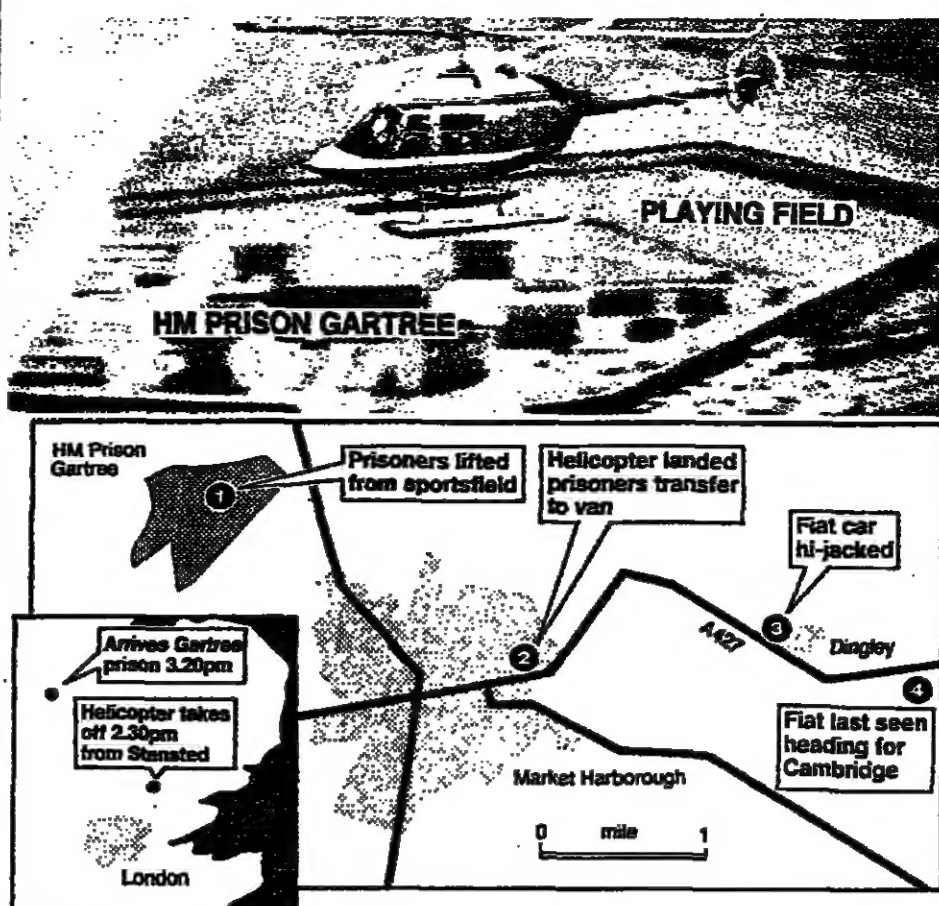
## Portfolio Gold

● The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was won yesterday by a reader from North London. Details, page 3.  
● Portfolio list, page 25.

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# Helicopter frees two from top prison



Gartree prisoners John Kendall (top right) and Sydney Draper, and how the pair made their daring escape

## Daring escape in under a minute

By Peter Evans, Stewart Tisdall and Craig Seton

Two armed, dangerous prisoners escaped by helicopter from Gartree top security prison, Leicestershire, yesterday in a daring aerial operation that penetrated one of Britain's most modern prisons and freed two inmates in less than a minute.

Both men were described as dangerous by police last night as a manhunt began across the Midlands. It is the first time a helicopter has been used in a prison escape in this country.

The escaped prisoners are John Kendall, aged 36, and Sydney Thomas Draper, aged 39. Kendall was serving eight years for conspiracy to commit burglary and burglary. He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on May 3 1983 and June 8 1983. Kendall and another East London criminal were released from a prison van by a gang in November 1984.

Draper, aged 39, was serving life with a recommendation that he serve 25 years for murder and theft. He was sentenced at the High Court of Judiciary in Glasgow in April 1974 for his part in a robbery on a British Rail depot at Springburn, Glasgow, when a security guard was shot dead.

During the escape, carefully choreographed, other prisoners impeded prison officers trying to intervene. The planners knew the men would be taking part in sports and could get a helicopter into one of the prison's perimeter fields.

The escape began just before dusk when the helicopter, after circling above the prison, landed on the sportsfield at 3.17 pm. The two prisoners, who were on exercise, ran and climbed aboard. The helicopter lifted off within 30 seconds. It landed about 10 or 15 minutes later in Welland Park industrial estate in Market Harborough. There were four men on board, including the pilot and the two prisoners.

The three other men hijacked a car and went to Dingley, just outside Market Harborough over the border in Northamptonshire. There they took a Vauxhall van threatening the driver with what he later said was a CS gas canister. Then they hijacked a red Fiat Uno, registration number A773RRP, and made off.

The Augusta Bell executive helicopter, owned by Tal-Air, had been hired at Stansted airport, Essex, ostensibly for a tour of Leicester golf courses. The machine was hijacked in mid-air at gunpoint.

## Reagan and Gorbachov aim for long-lasting links

### A winning way with political animals

From Frank Johnson, Washington

Mr Gorbachov prepared to fly home last night after - according to yesterday's New York Times front page - "borrowing one of Mr Reagan's patented political tactics and taking his case directly to the American people." The paper added: "The strategy seems to have paid off." What was more likely was that Mr Gorbachov had taken his case directly to the American politicians - a very different, more impressive, lot. That certainly seemed to have paid off.

When he met members of Congress on Wednesday, one of the legislators was sufficiently emboldened to complain to him about how few people were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. Mr Gorbachov raised a mock rifle in his hands. "You stand on the Mexican border," he said - implying that the United States shoot Mexicans trying to get in. If they did, there would be many more premature deaths among Mexicans.

But Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic majority leader, commented on Mr Gorbachov's debating thrust: "There was not a hell of a lot we could say in response."

Why not? The Soviet Union's problem with potential immigrants is to do with people trying to get out. That of the US is to do with people trying to get in. This would seem to tell us something about the relative popularity of the two countries as places in which to live.

Mr Gorbachov should be the one without a hell of a lot to say in response. Instead, Mr Robert Michel, the Republican minority leader in the House of Representatives, pushed: "He's a very smart individual, very a tuned to our system, how it operates." Mr Tony Coelho, a Californian Democrat representative, added: "He's one of us - a political animal."

To those of us who are neither Soviet nor US citizens, it does not seem as if Mr Gorbachov is one of them - an American political animal just like Mr Coelho. Mr Coelho underestimates his own craft. Mr Gorbachov is good at impressing American political animals. But that is easier than being one of them.

Continued on page 18, col 7

## Summit justified our hopes, say leaders

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan yesterday declared that his three-day summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov had been a clear success. Like the star on the Christmas tree it had lit up hopes for all people of goodwill.

"Both the General Secretary and I walk away from our meetings with a sense of accomplishment," he said. Standing side by side with Mr Gorbachov on the south lawn of the White House under a soft drizzle, Mr Reagan said that the two had agreed to continue the dialogue on human rights at the highest level. The discussion on regional conflicts had been no less to the point. The two had spoken "bluntly". But that had been useful. The door had been opened to ending these regional conflicts.

The two leaders had also agreed on increased contacts and a breaking down of artificial barriers. Mr Reagan said the two countries needed a realistic understanding of each other. They needed patience, creativity and persistence. The framework for building such a relationship had been strengthened.

"I intend to use this framework for a more constructive relationship, one that is long-lasting rather than transitory," Mr Reagan said the me-

dium-range arms treaty the two men had signed did indeed "make history". With emotion in his voice, he asked Mr Gorbachov to take back with him to Moscow his "best wishes" for the New Year to the Soviet people.

Mr Gorbachov said in reply: "We note with satisfaction that the visit to Parliament... 4 Superpower relations... 6 Anglo-Soviet ties... 6 Nato dilemma... 7 Missile inspection... 7 Post-summit pitfalls... 12"

Washington has on the whole justified our hopes. He said the three days of hard work had been pivotal to Soviet-American relations.

A good deal had been accomplished and the two sides had taken an "unprecedented step" with the signing of the arms treaty, which he hoped would set in motion the process of disarmament.

Flanked by his wife, with Mrs Reagan standing beside the President, Mr Gorbachov said he had no intention of minimising the importance of his meetings with congressmen, intellectual leaders and others so that they could get a better understanding of each other and remove established stereotypes. These meetings

were important both for policy making and bringing peoples together.

In bidding farewell to America he hoped he would have a chance next time to meet its great people face to face to chat and to get to know them.

Today the Soviet Union and the US were closer to the common goal of mutual security, but there was still much work to be done. Mr Gorbachov ended by saying: "We are grateful for your hospitality and wish success, well-being and peace to all Americans."

After a 90-minute delay while their experts' reports were examined, President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov held their final round of talks in an atmosphere of optimism but with progress on the vexed questions of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and strategic arms cuts still in the balance. Despite very strong language from President Reagan, no substantial change was expected in Soviet policies on human rights.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet spokesman, said it was not simply a question of a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, but how to ensure national reconciliation there and stop outside help to the "contras", as he called the insurgents.

## Officials cleared by Synod inquiry

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Two senior officials at the centre of the controversy over the preface to Croftford's Clerical Directory were yesterday exonerated by a committee of the General Synod of the Church of England.

Mr Derek Pattinson, secretary general of the General Synod, and Mr James Shelley, secretary of the Church Commissioners, were cleared of criticism over their handling of the affair, which ended in the death of the preface's author, Dr Gary Bennett.

After about three hours of discussion by the General Synod's policy sub-committee, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said the committee had confirmed its attention to that point in the "manner" of the preface's publication.

The choice of the author of the preface and the procedure

Continued on page 18, col 1

## Alliance is new name

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Alliance will be the official shorthand name of the new party to be formed out of a merger of the Liberals and the SDP, it was disclosed last night.

The announcement that the leaders of the two parties had reached agreement on the constitution and terms of the new party came after weeks of tortuous negotiations.

This means they are on

course for conferences next month at which they will ratify the deal. There will be membership ballots and a launch in time for next year's council elections.

In a move aimed at making it difficult for Dr David Owen and his supporters to lay claim to the SDP title, the new centre party will also have a longer title: The New Liberal and Social Democratic Party.

Continued on page 18, col 7

## Gatting comes under the whip in the Commons

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday issued an unprecedented rebuke to Mike Gatting, the England cricket captain, for his behaviour which has jeopardised the tour of Pakistan.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, told MPs that there could be no excuse for flouting the authority of judges, referees or umpires.

Mr Wakeham surprised the House by reading out an obviously prepared statement during the routine weekly exchanges on next week's Commons business schedule.

It underlined the Government's concern over the damage which this week's incidents could cause to Anglo-Pakistan relations, and its efforts to

improve the image of sport, badly dented by recent incidents in football, cricket and boxing.

Mr Wakeham said: "Whatever the circumstances, there can be no excuse for flouting the authority of judges, referees or umpires. Such respect is fundamental to the playing of any sport. The question of the enforcement of standards of discipline and umpiring are matters for the cricketing authorities."

Mr Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said last night that "every effort" was being made to save the tour. "I don't want to predict anything but we're hopeful that the Test match can be restarted tomorrow morning," he said after the board's winter meeting at Lord's.

"Disciplinary action was not discussed. Gatting is captain of England now and for the rest of the winter, which includes of course the tour to New Zealand, and no steps have been taken to the contrary."

Mr Smith said there was no talk during the meeting of bringing home the England tourists. No contingency plans had been discussed should play not restart today. He confirmed that the match had been reduced to four days because of the blank Wednesday.

The TCCB issued a short official statement. "TCCB chairman Raman Subba Row has been in contact with General Butt, president of the Pakistan board, and Jaz Butt, the Pakistan board secretary. TCCB chief executive, Alan Smith, has also been in

regular touch with the England manager, Peter Lush.

"It has been agreed between TCCB and the Pakistan board that every effort must be made to restart the Test match tomorrow morning and the means to this end are currently being discussed in Faisalabad by Peter Lush and the Pakistan authorities."

● Labour MPs have called for neutral umpires to be used in Test matches.

The MPs, led by Mr Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield, called on Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister of Sport, to contact the national and international cricketing bodies with a view to negotiating new guidelines for player discipline and the standard of umpiring.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## IBA intervenes in access dispute

The Independent Broadcasting Authority will today attempt to break the deadlock between the independent television companies and independent programme makers over access to television channels. Mr John Whitney, director general, stepped in last night after the breakdown in talks between the two sides over arrangements for the purchase and use of programmes made by independents for Britain's commercial stations.

Mr David Shaw, director of the ITV Association, which represents Britain's 16 commercial stations, and Mr Michael Darlow, chief negotiator for the Independent Access Steering Committee, representing the country's 600 independent production companies, will meet Mr Whitney at IBA headquarters this morning. The Government wants the independents to make about 25 per cent of programmes, worth £300 million a year.

## Belfast boost

A grant of £1.125 million towards the £4.1 million cost of six local enterprise projects in north and west Belfast was announced yesterday by the International Fund for Ireland.

The fund, which has about £28 million, was set up last December by the governments of the United States, Canada and New Zealand to promote economic and social developments through-out Ireland and particularly cross-border initiatives. In the first year the fund had committed £8 million. Mr Charles Brett, its chairman, said.

## Ridley responds

An attempt to head off a rebellion by Conservative MPs over the planned community charge was last night made by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

With the second reading of the Local Government Finance Bill only a week away Mr Ridley went before a special meeting of Tory backbenchers to lambast the alternative proposal for a charge based on people's ability to pay. Twenty-one Tory MPs have backed a motion urging the committee discussing the Bill to consider the banded charge.

## Ferry cargo warning

Highly dangerous chemicals which were on the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise when she capsized at Zeebrugge are about to be shipped to Britain, Mr James Provan, European Parliament member for North East Scotland, said yesterday.

He added that some of the chemicals had been stored at a Belgian army base but he had been told they were now awaiting shipment. "There is concern they may be unstable and the containers corroded." He said there were more than sixty chemicals on the ferry, the most dangerous of which was 61 drums of cyanide.

## Actress in libel win

The actress Charlotte Cornwell was awarded £11,500 libel damages in the High Court yesterday for an article which called her "weird" of the week and made derogatory comments about her size and singing ability.

However, Miss Cornwell, aged 38, will have to pay her legal costs, estimated at £50,000. She was awarded £10,000 damages in her original action in 1985 against Miss Nina Myskova, a television critic, over the article in the *People*.

The Court of Appeal had later ordered a re-trial.

## Midwife crisis

Mothers and babies' lives are being put at risk by a critical shortage of midwives, the Royal College of Midwives said yesterday.

The college said that in a recent case, a baby died after a midwife failed to pick up distress signals on a foetal heart monitoring machine because she had three other mothers to look after.

The college is calling for a minimum wage of £9,000 a year for qualified midwives to help ease the crisis.

Ideally, hospitals should have one midwife on duty for each mother.

## Heart op baby buried

David Barber, the hole in the heart baby who died aged eight weeks, was buried yesterday close to the home he never saw. David died last Saturday, the day he was due to go home from Birmingham Children's Hospital after a heart operation that had been postponed five times because of a shortage of intensive care nurses.

His parents, Mrs Diane Walker and Mr Philip Barber, both aged 28, were joined by 200 other mourners who filled the Methodist church in their home village of Silverdale, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

## IRA bunker found

A bunker the size of a small house has been discovered by the Irish security forces who believe it was intended for storage of 150 tonnes of weaponry from Libya for the IRA, intercepted by the French authorities.

The bunker, which is 55ft long, 11ft wide and 9ft high, was found south of Dublin near Arklow, Co Wicklow.

It was also disclosed by Irish police that they have found a

## Perks soar as South-east firms vie for staff

By Ronald Faux  
Employment Affairs  
Correspondent

Banks, stores and other service industries in the South-east are having to pay more and more and offer even better perks to attract and keep staff, according to a report on the region's labour market.

All main retailers are under pressure, with West End stores, wealthy areas with low unemployment and super-stores located near motorways all reporting recruitment difficulties.

Building societies, finance houses and insurance companies are suffering the same difficulties.

Places with particular difficulties include Reading, Swin-

don, Oxford and the areas around the big airports.

The report, by Incomes Data Services, says qualified staff have been in such short supply that companies resorted to "non-traditional" recruitment practices - poaching individuals or whole departments. In turn, this means employees have organized their careers to maximize short-term earnings, the report says.

It covers the labour market in London and the surrounding areas of Surrey, Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Sussex - known to the report as the South-east outside London.

Marks & Spencer told *The Times* it paid a London weighting allowance of £1,800 and a South-east allowance of £1,600.

An M&S sales assistant in Oxford Street in central London earns £136.50 a week, including the special allowance. In outer London the same job commands £121 and in the rest of the UK £108.50 a week.

Allied in Croydon, south London, is advertising in the North in an attempt to fill 60 vacancies. The store offers help in finding accommodation.

Marks & Spencer, Selfridges and British Home Stores all provide interest-free loans for season tickets. Some food retailers report staff turnover

rates of 100 per cent or more and others were bending rules in order to pay higher rates at key stores.

Safeways introduced a new intermediate rate of about £100 at nominated stores outside central London. Radio Rentals recently increased its London allowance by more than 50 per cent and one stores group seeking ways of attracting workers from outside London looked at buying a hotel in which to house them.

The National and Provincial Building Society's decision to pay an inner London allowance of £3,450 a year to employees with five years' service from last October was a response to severe problems in holding on to staff.

A £3,000 inner London allowance was introduced this year by the four main clearing banks and other financial institutions, with £750 for the rest of the South-east.

The Bank of Scotland reported intolerable levels of staff turnover after finding it could relocate staff to London but could not keep them after they arrived. It introduced a £2,000 allowance.

The report blames the high cost of housing and the supply and quality of labour for the shortage. Much of the upward movement was created by a 25 per cent growth in financial service employment, which now provides one in five of all jobs in London. Demand has been particularly intense for professionally qualified staff.

Banks and other financial institutions offered across-the-board increases to all London staff through the Federation of London Clearing Banks.

The Halifax Building Society extended the area and the allowance and the National Westminster Bank broke ranks, increasing its inner London allowance and introducing a £750 payment for "Rosedale".

The offer was promptly matched by other banks fearful of giving the National Westminster a competitive edge.

*Labour Market Supplement, London and the South-east* (Incomes, Data Services, 193 St John Street, London EC1 4LS; available on subscription)

## Jail threat to journalist as Lords rule on sources

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A journalist faces possible imprisonment or an unlimited fine after a House of Lords ruling yesterday that he has no "reasonable excuse" to refuse to disclose the sources of articles about insider dealing to the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors.

In a judgement with far-reaching implications for the Press, five law lords held unanimously that Mr Jeremy Warner, a financial journalist, could not rely on the statutory protection against disclosure under section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

This provides that journalists cannot be compelled to disclose their sources, or be found guilty of contempt for not doing so, unless it is established that disclosure is necessary either in the interests of justice, for national security, or for the prevention of crime.

The department's inspectors have argued that in this case they need the source for the "prevention of crime" which the law lords held had the wide meaning of "detection and prosecution of crimes".

Mr Warner was ordered to go before a judge in the Chancery Division who will decide what, if any, punishment is appropriate. Under the Contempt of Court Act he could face an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment. The hearing is not expected before Christmas.

Yesterday Mr Warner said he would not reveal his sources, even if it meant going to prison.

"I am in an impossible position," he said after the ruling. "Either I reveal my sources and commit professional suicide, or I accept whatever punishment, if any, they choose to hand out."

Mr Warner, whose wife is expecting, said he viewed the prospect of prison with "some trepidation" but he believed it was essential to uphold the journalist's principle of non-disclosure of sources.

"I am going to stick to my guns," he said. "The public has a right to put their trust in the press, and be guaranteed anonymity, and be able to talk to the press without fear or reprisals of any sort. If that is undermined, it would hinder the free flow of information to newspapers."

The ruling is the first test of the statutory protection under

the Contempt of Court Act.

The last time two journalists went to prison over the protection of sources was in 1963. Brendan Mulholland and Reginald Foster were imprisoned for six months and three months respectively after refusing to disclose their informants to the Vassall tribunal.

Yesterday one of the law lords, Lord Oliver, admitted that the inspectors had only narrowly discharged the burden of showing they needed to know the source.

He added that he was concerned it should not be thought that the Act's protection "can be overcome merely by a ritualistic assertion" that information was needed for crime prevention.

Mr Warner, aged 32, has refused to disclose the sources of two articles he wrote in connection with suspected leaks of price-sensitive information about takeover bids from the Office of Fair Trading, the Department of Trade and Industry or the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"I do not accept they have proved the source is necessary for the prevention of crime," Mr Warner said yesterday.

The first article was written when he was with *The Times* and was published in November 1985; and the second after he had become business correspondent with *The Independent* on October 26 1986.

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith, editor of *The Independent*, which is backing Mr Warner, said last night he was disappointed.

"I had hoped the House of Lords would see we have only a few exceptional occasions where journalists should not be compelled to reveal their sources; and this does seem to be one of those."

Mr Neil Kinnock last night condemned the law lords' decision as outrageous.

He said the ruling meant the suppression of the only real means of disclosing sharp and illegal practices in financial operations in the City.

He said no one asked the police to disclose their sources as long as they ultimately had the evidence. The injunction on the BBC was part of the same atmosphere of suppression, Mr Kinnock added.

Leading article, page 13  
Law Report, page 27

## Stud farms lose rates exemption

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Four hundred stud farms in England and Wales lost their House of Lords test case appeal for rate exemptions yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously dismissed the appeal by Whithurst Farm and Stud Ltd, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and ruled that its premises - used for breeding and rearing thoroughbreds - could not claim the benefit of agricultural rating.

The decision will mean a hefty rates bill for hundreds of stud farms. Local rating authorities had delayed their rate demands pending the hearing.

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association said yesterday that it would consider the decision with its advisers to see whether it could be "reversed by parliamentary means".

Mr Charles Morrison, Conservative MP for Devizes and chairman of the All-Party Racing and Thoroughbred Breeding Industry Committee, said: "In future, our efforts must be political rather than legal."

Mr Chris Harper, owner of Whithurst Farm, over which the test case was brought, said the ruling would mean a rates bill of £8,000.

Whithurst Farm had initially won a valuation court ruling that its buildings were exempt from rates as "agricultural" buildings under the terms of the General Rates Act, 1967.

However, in November 1984, the Lands Tribunal allowed an appeal by the rating authorities and the tribunal's decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal two years later.

Yesterday, the law lords said the valuation officer's concession that the land occupied by the stud farm buildings was agricultural, since it was used for grazing horses, was correct.

But the buildings did not satisfy a second requirement - that they should be used "solely in connection with agricultural operations".

Law Report, page 27  
Racing, page 33



Mr James Shelley, secretary of the Church Commissioners (left), and Mr Derek Pattinson, Secretary General of the General Synod, who were yesterday exonerated from criticism over their handling of the Crockford's preface

## Clerics deny plot on Runcie

By Mark Ellis

The influential Anglo-Catholic lobby in the Church of England strenuously denied yesterday that the preface to Crockford's Clerical Directory was part of a conspiracy against the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

And in a letter to *The Times* today, the Rev John Broadhurst, chairman of the Catholic Group in General Synod, also distanced himself from the attack on Dr Runcie's leadership contained in the preface written by Dr Gareth Bennett, himself a leading member of the group.

The *Church Times* today calls for an end to the practice of publishing unsigned prefaces, a full explanation from the highest levels of the church as to why it was published, unqualified apologies and a firm promise of honourable dealing in the future.

It describes the events leading to the

death of Dr Bennett, who was found dead on Monday in a car filled with exhaust fumes at his home in Marston, near Oxford, as "a profoundly unhappy episode in the history of the Church of England" that underlines "the evil of anonymous writing".

Of Dr Bennett, it says: "His mistake was not to foresee the response. He may well have expected that his critique of the Church of England's leadership would draw amused and even admiring comment in the comparative privacy of clerical and academic circles. He cannot have guessed at the malevolent interest it would provoke in the national press."

Fr Broadhurst issued a statement yesterday on behalf of the executive committee of the Catholic Group, of which Dr Bennett was a member for five years, denying claims by Mr Peter Brabner, a former Conservative MP

and group member, that a High Church campaign was being waged to force Dr Runcie to retire next year and to block his replacement by Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York.

The statement added: "No member of the group had any prior knowledge as to its contents. The allegations made by Mr Peter Brabner are entirely untrue."

The Catholic Group has the support of about a third of the 580 members of the Church of England's governing body, the General Synod, and actively promotes the theology of Anglo-Catholicism which was favoured by Dr Bennett.

Dr Bennett, aged 58, an Oxford theologian and fellow of New College, Oxford, will be cremated next Tuesday after a regular service in the chapel of his old college.

Letters, page 13

## Far-left posting prevented

By Roland Radd

The Civil and Public Services Association was prevented from appointing a leading supporter of the Militant Tendency as its national organizer yesterday when the president suspended an executive meeting.

Militant executive members demanded that Mr Kevin Roddy be officially named as the union's head of organization.

The deputy-general secretary, Mr John Macreadie, issued a circular stating that the selection committee had already picked Mr Roddy.

Mrs Marion Chambers, the association's president, ruled Mr Macreadie out of order, arguing that since four of the union's leading officers had walked out of the selection committee it had no authority.

She warned the executive:

"If you attempt to railroad Kevin Roddy through, I will instruct the general secretary not to follow it."

"I warn you now if you attempt to make this corrupt move and the union is damaged you will be held responsible. You have been warned what will happen if you persist in trying to turn this union into the arm of the Militant Tendency in Whitehall."

Mrs Chambers then took the unprecedented action of suspending the executive meeting, and the moderates walked out.

They alleged that Mr Kevin Roddy had indicated at a conference of the union's Broad Left group, five days before nominations closed for head of organization, that he was withdrawing from other positions he had held for 13 years.

Mr Macreadie challenged Mrs Chambers' right to suspend the meeting, arguing that the selection committee had acted constitutionally in choosing Mr Roddy.

Mr John Ellis, general secretary, said that for a political group to determine who should be given union jobs, irrespective of the agreed selection procedures, was "against conference policy, the interests of the union and the constitution".

Three supporters of the Militant Tendency have already been appointed assistant secretaries.

The executive met again yesterday afternoon after the far left members agreed to defer making a decision on who should become national organizer until the next executive meeting in February 1988.

## Social workers to face blame

By David Cross

Social workers responsible for Kimberley Carlile, the girl aged four who was tortured and battered to death by her stepfather, are expected to be castigated today in the official report into her death.

The 282-page document will highlight the role of those in charge of her welfare on the Kidbrooke housing estate in Greenwich, south-east London.

They failed to detect the chain of suffering which left her body covered with cigarette burns and bruises when she died weighing only 24lbs in June last year.

Her stepfather, Nigel Hall, aged 24, is serving a life sentence for her murder and her mother, Pauline Carlile, aged 27, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for assault and cruelty.

The report, based on the testimony of 60 witnesses who attended a 28-day private inquiry chaired by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, will be given to leaders of Greenwich council and the local health authority this morning.

One of the key points in the report will be how far staff shortages in Greenwich social services department were to blame.

Mr Martin Ruddock, the team leader in charge of her case, has acknowledged that despite his concern, neither he nor his colleagues saw her during the final weeks

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TERMS OF PAYMENT: CHEQUE, CASH AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS



# Secrecy row over Lawson wife's drink-drive case

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Thérèse Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's wife, was banned from driving for a year yesterday after being whisked unannounced into a London court on a drink-driving offence.

Mrs Lawson's name was not listed among cases to be dealt with at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court. She appeared in court as the first case of the day soon after being charged at Rochester Row police station.

She was fined £125 as well as losing her licence for an offence committed on Friday November 13.

Opposition MPs said that as the wife of a Cabinet minister, she had been given special treatment.

Scotland Yard said: "We reject any suggestion that she was treated any differently from anyone else."

Mrs Lawson, aged 43, went to Rochester Row police station with her solicitor at 9.30am and was charged with driving with excess alcohol in her bloodstream.

She was two milligrams above the 80 milligram legal limit and police had discretion whether to charge or caution her.

Chief Inspector Mark Shaw charged her at Rochester Row station and bailed her to appear in court. Mr Shaw said afterwards that there had been no undue haste. Mrs Lawson came to the police station, she was prepared to plead guilty, and the court yesterday was the first opportunity to deal with her.

Mr Shaw said it was "a straightforward case with no other actions to be considered. A plea of guilty was being entered, she was represented in court and there was no reason why it could not be dealt with there and then."

The chief inspector said he had no idea why Mrs Lawson had appeared first in court. It was not unusual for charges to be left off the court list if they were made after the typescript list was compiled.

The Chancellor's wife failed a breath test after her Austin Maestro car collided with a

bus outside Scotland Yard. She identified herself to the bus driver, giving her address as 11 Downing Street.

No one was hurt in the accident and she was held for three hours before her release on police bail.

Yesterday Mrs Lawson, described as a housewife of Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, pleaded guilty to driving with excess alcohol in her bloodstream.

Mr Richard Almond, for the prosecution, told the court that after being taken to a police station after the accident on November 13 Mrs Lawson was found to be two points over the legal limit.

Mr Malcolm Heslop, for Mrs Lawson, said: "Arrangements had been made to collect her child from school but she decided to collect the child herself. She had drunk a small amount that day but she never thought she was over the limit."

"She was stationary when the bus reversed into her. It was one of those unfortunate Friday the 13th incidents," Mr Heslop asked the magistrate, Mrs Norma Negus, to be lenient because the loss of Mrs Lawson's licence would be a great inconvenience.

After her appearance Mr John Mulhearn, chief clerk at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, rejected any suggestion that he or his court officials had tried to keep the case out of the public glare.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said confiscation was one of the issues being examined by the road traffic law review which will publish its report next month.

Motorists are to be captured on film when Britain's first spy cameras are installed at traffic lights in Nottingham this weekend.

The cameras will photograph vehicles jumping red lights showing their registration numbers, direction, and position on the road.

Thérèse Lawson: banned from driving for one year.

Mr Bishop, who had been in custody for a year, left the court by a rear exit without comment.

The jury had been told that Mr Bishop, a father-of-two who knew the victims, joined in the search for the missing girls, using his dog, Misty.

The prosecution claimed he had been seen in the park at about the time the girls were killed and alleged that scientific evidence showed he was the murderer.

Mr Ivan Lawrence, for Mr Bishop, told the jury that the suggestion that one man had killed the girls was "unlike any not downright absurd".

He said he did not know Mrs Lawson was due to appear today.

The court appearance list was normally prepared on the previous day with the names of people who were expected to appear. If further people were arrested, charged, and brought before the court at short notice, their names would be added to the list on the day.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of Ulster's Democratic Unionists, called on the Government's law officers to explain why Mrs Lawson's name was omitted from the court sheet.

Labour MPs to voice allegations of favouritism included Mr Brian Sedgemore, member for Hackney South and Shoreditch, Mr Martin Flannery, member for Sheffield, Hillsborough, and Mr Dave Nellist, the member for Coventry South East.

Mr Robert Hughes, the shadow transport secretary, said: "If there is any attempt to hide the facts it would be ridiculous."

Magistrates may be given the power to confiscate the vehicles of drivers convicted of serious motoring offences. Confiscation is expected to be ordered when drivers have caused death or serious injury. It is likely to be particularly recommended where the drivers were well over the alcohol limit and other penalties are considered too lenient.

The plan is for vehicles to be sold off by the courts with the owners receiving none of the proceeds.

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## Royal visit to Aids clinic is criticized

By Ian Smith

The Prince of Wales was yesterday criticized for visiting a clinic which uses "unproved" methods to treat Aids sufferers and heroin addicts.

The Prince, an advocate of homeopathic medicine, spent an hour at the International Society of Biophysical Medicine in Liverpool during a tour of Merseyside yesterday.

The society, a registered charity, uses a form of acupuncture called electro-stimulation to prompt the production of anti-stress effects which boost the body's immune system.

The society emphasized that it did not claim the treatment was a cure for Aids.

Merseyside administrators opposed the visit and said the Prince had bestowed the "royal seal of approval" on the clinic.

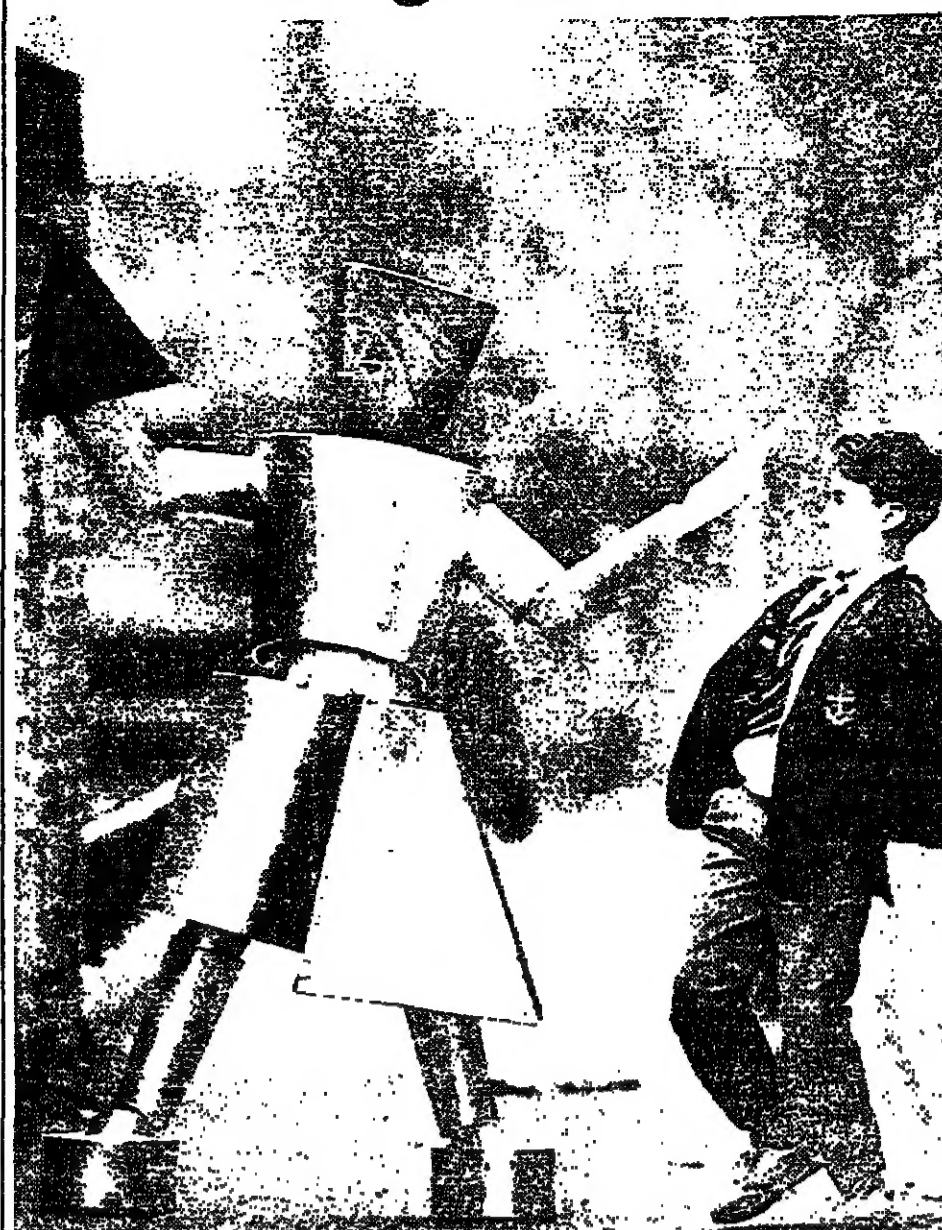
Mr Alan Parry, drugs and Aids co-ordinator for Mersey Regional Health Authority said the society's claims to prolong the lives of Aids victims and heroin addicts was irresponsible.

How many people managed to stay off drugs after receiving treatment was unknown, Mr Parry said. No medically accepted data had been offered by the clinic to support the claims of prolonging the lives of Aids and drugs sufferers.

Mr Dominic Davies, director of Eclipse, a private Aids consultancy in Liverpool, said one of his greatest concerns was that sufferers' hopes were unfairly raised.

Buckingham Palace last night denied the visit represented any seal of approval by the prince for the clinic's method of treatment.

## Shocking encounters



Mark Weldon takes avoiding action during an encounter yesterday with a futuristic robot near his home in Hoxton, east London. "I thought we were being invaded. It looked like a man from outer space. Both me and my friend ran off, then we realized there was somebody inside," Mark, a pupil at the Central Foundation Boys' School, said. The somebody inside was Pablo Ventura, aged 28, a dancer who, in the guise of the robot, will appear in

Vita Futurista, an arts council film to be broadcast on Channel 4 on Sunday. The film describes the Italian avant-garde art movement that, between 1909 and 1944, took inspiration from the machine. Most of the film was shot at an exhibition on futurism in Venice. It shows how the movement's followers performed capricious with an orchestra of machines, and enlisted a robot to shock people. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

## Portfolio Gold Charities and family to benefit

Mrs Monica Menten, of Golders Green, north London, is the winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000. "I live by the motto, 'never give in', and it paid off," she said.

Mrs Menten, a secretary at a computer company in London, will spend part of the money on Christmas gifts for her seven brothers and sisters, and give the rest to her two favourite charities. "I get great pleasure out of giving to others," she said.

Mrs Menten reads The Times regularly.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

## £4bn drive to transform Mersey basin

Private investors were invited yesterday to join a £4 billion project to transform Europe's most polluted rivers and canals into tourist attractions.

Over the next 25 years government and European Regional Development Fund grants will be used to attract private investment to 1,600 square miles of the Mersey Basin stretching from the Pennines to the Irish Sea.

A three-year study of the area, commissioned by the Department of Environment's Mersey Campaign Unit, has recommended spending £250 million from the public and private sectors within the next two years to generate 5,000 new jobs.

## Family law overhaul is needed, inquiry told

By Peter Davenport

A demand for an overhaul of family law and the provision of extra resources by the Government to enable social services, the police and other agencies to respond to the increased child sexual abuse, was made yesterday by the president of the Association of Directors of Social Services for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Brian Roycroft, giving evidence to the Cleveland child sexual abuse inquiry, outlined three measures which, he said, were necessary to achieve a fairer system of investigation, decision making, support for families and care for children.

He said that the legal framework for dealing with such cases must be clarified and the White Paper on Child Care Law should be given a high priority in the Government's programme of legislation.

Legal settings in which cases were heard were sometimes inconclusive and could leave parents with a sense of injustice.

His association commended the Scottish system of family courts, which included an independent reporter and a panel of lay members, and called for the introduction of similar measures elsewhere.

Social services departments, health authorities, the police and voluntary caring agencies should be given extra resources to provide more personnel and better, joint training "at the earliest possible opportunity".

Mr Roycroft, who is also director of social services for Newcastle upon Tyne, said that any department faced with the same increase in the sexual abuse of children as experienced in Cleveland would have felt the strain.

He said that a survey in July of 100 local authorities showed that incidents of child sexual abuse had increased significantly. The detection of such cases had risen by 400 per cent in five years.

The paramount responsibility of social services once a case of sexual abuse had been diagnosed was to ensure that the child had a secure and caring environment. The inquiry continues.

## University choice Oxford applications soar

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Oxford University announced yesterday that a record of 8,712 would-be undergraduates had applied for entry next October, an increase of 21 per cent over the previous year.

Applications are particularly strong for physics, up 27 per cent, and chemistry, up 25 per cent.

In contrast, Cambridge University said the number of its applicants was down by nearly 5 per cent. Mr Geoffrey Skelsey, the assistant registrar, said the figures were causing "some heart-searching".

Most Oxford applicants are offered a place on the basis of an interview and a special examination taken in their fourth term in the sixth form. The grades they achieve at A level will be almost irrelevant.

Cambridge also interviews applicants but makes the offer of a place entirely conditional on A-level grades. It commonly asks for three As. In addition, half Cambridge's applicants are required to take a sixth-term examination.

In spite of Oxford's success

at attracting applicants, the students' union yesterday launched a campaign against what it calls the university's unfair admissions policy.

The students' union published a table comparing the class of degree attained by those who entered Oxford from state and independent schools in 1984 and graduated in 1987, using a system of three points for a first, down to one point for a third.

The results show the average score of the 1,097 graduates from independent schools was 2.1, while the 1,189 graduates from state schools averaged 2.2 points.

Mr James Forder, chairman of the students' union's education committee, said: "A fair admissions policy is one which admits the people who will perform best in finals. The Oxford University system does not do this."

Half of Oxford's undergraduates come from independent schools, although they make up only 7 per cent of the school population.

The students' union said more than 400 undergraduates had volunteered to visit state schools which had not had a successful applicant to Oxford in the past two years "to try to dispel the idea that Oxford is either all work and no play or full of champagne-swilling Hooray Henrys".

### EXAM RESULTS

Degree	Student numbers		Norrington points	
	Ind	State	Ind	State
First	163	148	489	444
Second (Div I)	553	711	1383	1776
Second (Div II)	287	259	430	388
Third	63	52	63	52
TOTAL	1097	1189	2365	2662
Average points			2.155	2.238

## Man cleared of killing girls

By Michael Horswell

Russell Bishop, the unemployed labourer accused of the "babes in the wood" killings of two girls in Brighton last year, was cleared of murder yesterday.

His acquittal led to uproar at Lewes Crown Court. His elder brother was temporarily detained after leaping the rail of the dock to congratulate him.

Relatives of the dead girls sobbed and put their heads in their hands after the verdicts, and Mr Justice Schiemann appealed for quiet when cheering broke out from relatives of Mr Bishop.

Mr Bishop, aged 21, of Stephen's Road, Brighton, was

alleged to have strangled Nicola Fellows and Karen Hadaway, both aged nine, after being overcome by sexual desire.

But the jury found him not guilty after retiring for two hours.

Police said they had no plans to re-open their inquiries into the murder of the girls, whose bodies were discovered huddled together in a hollow in a steep bank at Wild Park, close to their homes on the Moulscroomb estate.

They appeared to have died without a struggle. Nicola had been sexually assaulted.

Mr Bishop, who had been in custody for a year, left the court by a rear exit without comment.

The jury had been told that Mr Bishop, a father-of-two who knew the victims, joined in the search for the missing girls, using his dog, Misty.

The prosecution claimed he had been seen in the park at about the time the girls were killed and alleged that scientific evidence showed he was the murderer.

Mr Ivan Lawrence, for Mr Bishop, told the jury that the suggestion that one man had killed the girls was "unlike any not downright absurd".

## New £4.5m mansion aims for old country style

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

One of the largest and most expensive country houses to be built this century is to rise at the centre of a 100-acre estate near Uckfield, East Sussex.

High Cross House will cost £4.5 million and take up to three years to complete. It is being built for Mr Nicholas van Hoogstraten, a property owner and international banker, who has large property holdings in Sussex and London.

Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council has recently won a compulsory purchase order on four houses owned by him because of alleged harassment of tenants.

The new house, which will have a facade of more than 500 feet, replaces a derelict Victorian mansion which was extensively damaged by fire in 1983. Planning permission for the building has been granted by Wealden District Council, which stipulated that it must



An artist's impression of High Cross House, which is to be built at Uckfield in East Sussex.

be used as a single family residence and that it will not be open to the public.

The house is to be designed by the architect, Anthony Browne. He has had wide experience in high-quality renovation work but this is his

first commission for a new building.

He said it will be built in a traditional English country style and describes it as a "revitalized version of a Vanbrugh/Lutyens country house".

Mr van Hoogstraten, who bought the estate in 1973, intends to use the new mansion as his UK base and to house his fine collection of French furniture and his art collection, which includes works by Bosch, Turner and Holbein.

## Ordination of women priests studied

By Clifford Longley

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Demetrios I, completed a successful official visit to England yesterday, though it was inevitably overshadowed by the Crockford's preface affair.

The Patriarch was the guest of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie. As a result of the visit, the Orthodox Church is to receive assistance from the Church of England in its investigation into the ordination of women to the priesthood.

Discussions between leading theologians of the Orthodox Church and of the Church of England were held at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday. A joint communiqué issued yesterday said female ordination was not considered an open question by the Orthodox side, although the issue was to receive further study.

## Victoria Cross bought back by hero's family

A Victoria Cross medal sold two generations ago because of poverty was bought back by the original recipient's great grandson for £12,100 at a Spink medal auction yesterday.

At the age of 69, Captain William Raynor was the oldest person to be awarded the medal, given for gallantry in the 1850s.

The medal dates from the Indian Mutiny in 1857, when he risked life to blow up an arms store used by Indian insurgents.

Captain Raynor survived because the bricks from the building fell over him, creating a protective space. The captain's descendant, also called William, plans to loan

## SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

the medal to regimental museum.

Top price at the sale was £52,000 (estimate £40,000) for a group of seven awards to Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole, GCB, MP. They were all awarded for his deeds in the Peninsular War and included medals originally awarded to the Duke of Wellington, which he in turn awarded to Sir Galbraith.

Sotheby's achieved a record \$1.1 million (£602,575) for a piece of Yuan ware at a New York Chinese sale on Wednesday.

The unusually large blue and white bowl, 19 in in diameter, is enhanced with a realistic-looking painted carp. It sold to the London dealer Eskensazi.

The sale attracted international clientele, including Japanese (the dealer who bought a narrow-necked vase painted with stylized peonies from the Northern Song Dynasty at £51,219), American (an early Tang dynasty gray pottery horse and rider for £18,077) and French (a pot-

tery falconer from the same dynasty, £40,674).

Christie's in South Kensington had a resounding success on Wednesday evening with the contents of Bacon's, a tobaccoist's shop in Cambridge. A world record £7,480 (estimate up to £4,000) was paid for an ornately carved, Meerschaum pipe. Another good price was that of £8,800 for the huge figure of a "Snuffing Highlander" which used to stand outside the shop.

But where Christie's had a 99 per cent success rate Bonhams reported that only 50 per cent of their sporting and livestock paintings the same night were actually sold. A John Frederick Herring painting, "Loading the Hay Cart", was bought in, as well

as two fine figures of a bull and a cow by A. M. Gauci. A picture of sheep and cattle in a meadow by Thomas Sidney Cooper sold for £7,920 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000).

Two 16th century bronze figures of Adam and Eve achieved the highest price of £143,000 (estimate £50,000 to £80,000) at Sotheby's European Works of Art sale.

A seventeenth century, striding bronze bull by Antonio Susini, after Giambologna, fetched £132,000 (estimate £15,000 to £25,000). It had a distinguished provenance, including periods in the homes of both Cardinal Richelieu and Louis XIV. It was bought by the London dealer Cyril Humphris.

## DISPATCHES KIMBERLEY CARLILE Falling Through The Net

TONIGHT @ 8.15

WITH

MICHAEL BYRNE  
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BRIAN COX  
KENNETH CRANHAM  
DANIEL DAY-LEWIS  
TREVOR EVE  
LYNN FARLEIGH  
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EMILY MOORE  
JOHN MOULDER-BROWN  
DIANA QUICK  
TREVOR RAY  
MICHAEL TURNER  
ZOE WANAMAKER

4  
TELEVISION



December 10 1987

PARLIAMENT

# 'Arrogant' Thatcher is denounced by Kinnock

Mrs Thatcher was complacent and arrogant about the state of the National Health Service, Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said amid rowdy scenes at Prime Minister's question time.

He began by asking if she agreed with the remarks earlier in the week by the presidents of the royal medical colleges that there was a deep financial crisis in the NHS.

Mrs Thatcher said that spending had gone up enormously (loud Labour protests and Conservative cheers).

On the Family Practitioner Service, spending was up 43 per cent in real terms since the time of the last Labour Government; hospital and community services, up 26 per cent in real terms compared with Labour; capital spending on hospital and community services was up 42 per cent (loud Labour protests and cries of "Oh no" and "Conservative cheers").

This Government's record on the health service far exceeds that of any other Government. Next year, expenditure on the service will continue further to increase (continued protests).

Mr Kinnock: The House and the country will note that the Prime Minister rejects the advice of the presidents of the three royal colleges.

This is further evidence that the Prime Minister is suffering from incurable complacency as well as unrepentant arrogance in

## PRIME MINISTER

these matters (very loud Conservative protests and Labour cheers).

Referring to the Prime Minister's "litany of figures", he said that Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, had predicted that "we will be hit by all the statistics".

But the basic fact was that the United Kingdom spent less than any developed European country on its health service.

Sir Raymond had said that Britain once had a health service that was the envy of the world and that it had been run very cheaply. But now the attempt was being made to run it too cheaply, despite the efforts of doctors, nurses and other hospital staff.

Patient care was deteriorating, acute services were almost at breaking point and morale depressingly low.

"Isn't that a crisis?"

Mrs Thatcher countered that if Mr Kinnock had been listening to the figures she had given, he would have commended the health service for the excellent work it was doing (Labour protests and Conservative cheers).

This Government has increased the proportion of gross national product spent on the health service from 4.8 per cent under Labour to 5.5 per cent now (Conservative cheers).

So not only has GNP gone up, but the proportion has gone up in real terms.

If the doctors think what they have written, they must be grateful that there is no Labour government in power (loud Conservative cheers and renewed Labour protests).

Mr Kinnock complained that in 40 years of the NHS, the presidents of the three senior royal medical colleges had never

felt it necessary to speak in the terms in which they had spoken to Mrs Thatcher's Government.

Doesn't she learn? (loud Labour cheers). Doesn't she recognize her responsibility for setting lives against sums? What is she going to do about it? (renewed cheers and protests).

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill, Order, please. How can the Prime Minister... (continued protests).

Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Lab) from a seated position to the Speaker: You are like a Pakistani umpire.

After extremely loud and prolonged Conservative protests, cries of "racist" and calls for Mr Foulkes to be "named", the Labour MP stood and told the Speaker that he withdrew the remark.

Mrs Thatcher replied that in 40 years of the NHS, there had never been more patients treated. There had never been more accident or emergency cases treated.

There had never been more heart by-pass or more hip replacement operations than

there were now... (loud Labour protests and Conservative cries for the answer to be heard).

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Kinnock and the Opposition could not bear to hear the facts. She continued with her listing of operations, numbers of which she said had increased under the Conservative Government: cataracts, kidney, cervical smear and others.

After still further noisy exchanges by the massed ranks of Conservative and Labour backbenchers, Mrs Thatcher told her supporters: They cannot bear it

that this Government has a far better record than they have (loud Conservative cheers).

If Mr Kinnock had listened to my earlier answer, he would know that next year, spending on the health service will go up by £1.1 billion. I mention that figure, because I have heard Opposition spokesmen on the radio suggesting that all that is needed is another £200 million. I repeat, next year we will be spending another £1.1 billion (loud Conservative cheers and Labour protests).

Earlier, Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) charged that beds were not available for young children at the Birmingham Children's Hospital or for cancer and kidney patients in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

What evidence was there for thinking that the National Health Service was safe in Mrs Thatcher's hands? (loud Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher referred to the "enormous number" of operations now taking place.

She said they were something like 2,360,000 a year. There were 6.5 million in-patients and 38 million hospital out-patients.

Mr David Nellist (Covey, South, Lab) asked the Prime Minister, instead of burying her head in 10-year-old NHS statistics and repeating them like a cracked record, what she would say to a seven-year-old Coventry boy waiting for a heart operation, or what she would say to the parents of a one-day-old baby who had died after being rushed from Birmingham to Liverpool because hospitals were closed. What would she say to the parents meeting in Birmingham tomorrow about this crisis?

Mrs Thatcher: My statistics are not out of date but up-dated. She said that there had been an increase in by-pass operations, and operations were now performed on children which could not have been performed 10 to 15 years ago.



The whole House would regret what had happened in the test match in Pakistan, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House (above), told MPs after being questioned about it. Whatever the circumstances, there could be no excuse for flouting the authority of judges, referees or umpires. Such respect was fundamental to the playing of any sport, he said.

The question of enforcement of standards of discipline and umpiring was a matter for the cricketing authorities.

He was replying to Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) who said that the Minister of Sport should make a statement to the House about the problems which the British team was encountering. He wanted to make a comparison between the excellent umpiring and refereeing in this country.

## Promise on discrimination

The Government is to bring in legislation to deal with the fact that two and a half times more male Catholics were unemployed than Protestants. When would the Government start to produce jobs in the United Kingdom and in Northern Ireland?

Mr Robert Crier (Bradford South, C) said that it was a scandalous reflection of the failure of Government economic policies that nearly 20 per cent of adults in Northern Ireland were unemployed.

This contributed to the maintenance of the sectarian divide because two and a half

## N IRELAND

## Arms verification system explained

The Bill giving diplomatic privileges and immunities to officials from foreign governments in Britain to verify arms control measures was debated on third reading in the Commons.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the Arms Control and Disarmament (Privileges and Immunities) Bill would give effect to the outcome of last year's Stockholm conference on confidence-building in disarmament in Europe.

It had called for privileges to be extended to inspectors carrying out on-site verification and to observers invited to military exercises. The Stockholm document was "a major confidence-building measure between East and West".

The Bill did not actually change the privileges and immunities but merely extended the category of people entitled to enjoy them.

He gave an assurance that the Government at present envisaged extending the Bill only to the INF agreement so far as it affected United Kingdom territory. He could not give precise dates because they would depend on the timing of the Bill in its remaining stages and ratification of the treaty which should take place in the new year.

He hoped that an Order in Council, which would have the effect of permitting inspectors and granting diplomatic immunities and privileges, could be tabled quickly and before the treaty came into force.

Turning to the INF agreement, he said that, despite doubts from left and right, the two superpowers had achieved their objective of global elimination of Soviet and American long-range and short-range intermediate ground-based missiles.

The position now was that certain necessary agreements had yet to be signed. The agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom in relation to inspections at Greenham Common and

## IMMUNITIES

Molesworth would be signed in Brussels on Friday.

A document would be signed later between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union whereby the Russians would agree to abide by the arrangements entered into and to comply with United Kingdom law and procedures.

That established the triangular nature of the legal relationship crucial in representing United Kingdom sovereignty which the Government wished

to maintain while playing its full part in the agreement.

There were 96 missiles at Greenham Common and 16 at Molesworth.

A single inspection could last up to 90 hours from the time the Soviet team entered the United Kingdom until the time they left. But they could be shorter.

All the inspectors would be drawn from a list, over which the United Kingdom would be consulted in advance, and they would all need visas.

The inspectors would get privileges and immunities while they were doing their work. These would be consistent with those granted by the 1964 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, although in some respects more limited.

## Ashley offers apology to Army

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab), who last week made allegations about bullying in the Queen's Dragoon Guards, apologized to the officer concerned.

He said that he had issued a public statement apologizing to the Queen's Dragoon Guards and to Lieutenant Colonel Alistair Macmillan, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, over allegations Mr Ashley had made about ill treatment of soldiers.

The MP said that he unconditionally withdrew his allegations because the Ministry of Defence had found no evidence to substantiate them.

His complaint had not been that Lieutenant Colonel Macmillan had broken the regulations, as the MoD had implied, but that he had fined one soldier an excessive amount, £500, for having an untidy room and had imposed a similar fine on another soldier for refusing to stop his bicycle when asked and for disorderly conduct.

However, there was far too much evidence of bullying and brutality in the Army and he would pursue his campaign to try to eradicate it.

## Language use to be studied

A working group has been set up by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, to advise him on the most constructive and appropriate way to handle the language question in the Welsh language.

He said in a written reply that Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State, Welsh Office, would preside over the group, which will have a membership spanning a broad spectrum of Welsh life. Mr Walker will discuss the language question with several representative organizations early in the new year.

## Air transport for plutonium

Reprocessed plutonium sent from Sellafield to Japan is likely to go by air. Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written reply that he was the present preferred option, but transport was not expected to take place until 1992 at the earliest.

Emergency arrangements were required and were subject to periodic testing by exercise. Design testing and development of a suitable package was in progress.

## £75 queries

The average estimated cost of written Commons replies is £45 and of oral answers, £75, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House of Commons, said in a written reply. He added that records of last year's annual cost of replies were not kept.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on private member's motion on unemployment. Local Government Bill, remaining stages, first day.

Tuesday: Local Government Bill, remaining stages, second day. Motion on Welsh Rate Support Grant Report.

Wednesday and Thursday: Local Government Finance Bill, second reading.

Friday: Christmas recess begins.

The main business in the House of Lords will be Monday: Merchant Shipping Bill, report. Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, committee, fifth day.

Tuesday: Legal Aid Bill, second reading. Swansea Yacht Haven Bill, third reading.

Wednesday: Debates on European Convention on Human Rights and on regional economic prospects.

Thursday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, committee, sixth day.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's Bill: Scotch Whisky Bill, second reading.

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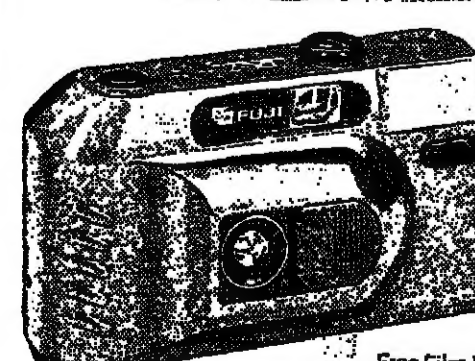
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# Scrap housebuyers' searches, says Law Commission

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Local authorities should be fined for delays in replying to local searches from house buyers or the whole search system should be scrapped, a Law Commission report says today.

The system "rarely throws up vital information", the commission's conveyancing standing committee says in a critical examination of delays in local searches on such matters as planning, roads, drainage and tree preservation.

The report says such searches and inquiries cost £15 million to £20 million a year. "It is surely unacceptable that some local authorities offer the public a service so slowly and so erratically that it is effectively useless."

Some councils take months to reply to searches when they should be completed in days, the report says. In London, Hackney took 20 weeks to reply to a search earlier this year. Many other councils take between four and six weeks. The committee says a "satisfactory maximum" would be 10 working days.

It adds that delays are also caused by those searching - including solicitors who use

the wrong forms, pay incomplete fees or fail to submit plans to identify the properties concerned.

But it emphasizes that many local authorities cause unacceptable and unnecessary delays in answering searches, which helps to lengthen the conveyancing process.

Putting forward five options in the consultation paper, the committee says that the imposition of penalties on councils which fail to reply within a specific time would encourage "an energetic reorganization" of their offices in order to provide a satisfactory service.

Admitting that their option to abolish the system might seem heretical to modern English conveyancers, the committee says that such inquiries are far from universal. There is no standardized system in Scotland and no equivalent in the United States.

This suggestion does not include scrapping the local land charges system, which is a statutory part of the process and would remain.

The three other options listed in the report are: encouragement to sellers to make inquiries, instead of buyers, so that the process starts sooner; a suggestion that property

sellers should give guarantees so that buyers do not have to rely on local authority replies; and a reduction in the number of questions asked to lessen the workload imposed on councils.

In the longer term, the committee considers the possibility of relieving local authorities of the responsibility and transferring it to the Land Registry, but says it would be years before it had the capacity to take on the task.

The second long-term solution is to computerize records. "Some see this as the ideal, and indeed the only way, to beat delays. It seems doubtful whether computerization could bring any practical benefit to users within the next five years, even if the decisions to proceed and to commit funds were taken at once", the report says. "This is too long to wait for an alleviation of the problem."

The committee has asked for comments on its suggested options to be delivered by March 31, 1988.

**Local Authority Enquiries: How Can We Eliminate Delays?** (Conveyancing Standing Committee, Conquest House, 37/38 John Street, Theobalds Road, London WC1N 2BQ; free).

## Lawley is desert island hostess



Sue Lawley, the newsreader, is to take over from Michael Parkinson as presenter of Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*, in March.

Miss Lawley, who was a castaway on the programme just four weeks ago, said her ideal guest would be Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Roy Plomley devised the programme 46 years ago and it was intended to run for a series of six. It proved so popular it continued and is one the world's three longest running radio programmes.

## Concern at scarred Lake District

Commercial development has scarred the Lake District so badly that it has failed to make the grade as a World Heritage site, the Council for National Parks said yesterday.

"A recent meeting of the international agency charged with assessing World Heritage sites put the Lake District under the microscope, and they were not impressed", a council spokesman said.

Farming, forestry, overgraz-

ing, roads, tourism, military activity and quarrying were all criticized, and government departments found to be severely wanting.

"The Lake District is the most beautiful mountainous area of England and it ought to be a World Heritage site. All those with authority over it ought now to amend their ways so that it may yet be designated", the spokesman said.

A farmer who destroyed an ancient monument by driving a bulldozer through it was fined £500 yesterday.

Antony Richard Watts, aged 45, of Townsend Farm, Shillingstone, Dorset, ploughed through a scheduled, 3,000-year-old earthen wall last March because it was "inconvenient" to drive around it, Sturminster Newton Magistrate's Court was told. Watts pleaded guilty.

## £36,000 fines for multiple share bids

Two company directors were yesterday each fined £36,000 for making multiple share applications in four privatization sales.

Thomas Hodge, aged 46, and Kenneth Jaffa, aged 43, both of Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, north London, admitted a total of 24 charges of making multiple applications in British Gas, Rolls-Royce, British Telecom and Trustee Savings Bank. If all had been successful the two would have made £160,000.

They were each fined £1,500 on each charge by Bow Street Magistrates, London.

Mr John Matthews, for Hodge and Jaffa, who are directors of Westgate Shipping, said they had behaved "stupidly and unwittingly".

Hodge told police: "I was not aware I was committing a criminal offence. Otherwise I wouldn't have touched it with a barge pole."

A window cleaner bought 158 copies of a newspaper to make multiple applications for British Gas shares. Bow Street magistrates were told.

Frederick Perkins, aged 56, of West Avenue, Finchley, north London, admitted 10 specimen charges of dishonestly obtaining shares. Perkins, who would have made a profit of £4,336, was fined £6,500, with £500 costs.

## Hormone could double milk yield of cows

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A new hormone product, Bovine Somatotropin (BST), which is said to be capable of doubling milk yields from dairy cows, is expected to be in commercial use in the United States within the next three to five years, a conference in London was told yesterday.

Mr E. Linwood Tipton, president of the United States Milk Industry Foundation, told the conference, organized by Agra Europe, a research group, BST could reduce the cost of dairy products.

Attempts have been made in some quarters to ban BST, mainly because it was felt that an increase in productivity was the last thing to be needed.

Both the Ministry of Agriculture and the American Food and Drug Administration have said BST poses no risk to human health.

Milk is being produced in greater quantities and more cheaply, despite a reduction in dairy farmers, the Milk Marketing Board said yesterday. In the past 25 years nearly 100,000 dairy farmers have left the industry.

There are now 46,740 milk producers in the UK and the average farm output has quadrupled to 330,000 litres a year. Total milk production has, since 1962, increased from 11,000 million litres to more than 15,350 million litres.

It then took six minutes for a person on the average industrial wage to "earn" a pint of milk; it now takes three.

The agricultural division of Prudential Property Services yesterday forecast that further reductions in dairy quotas would increase stability in the livestock sector.

### Weekend food prices

## Duck good value for festive menu

Deciding what to give guests can be a problem during the festive season, but those who chooseduck will be maintaining a tradition even older than Christmas.

Peking Duck was a most popular food in the Han dynasty (168 BC) and Aylesbury Duck is believed to be a descendant of those fine birds. It got its name from the Vale of Aylesbury where duck-rearing flourished in the last century.

The duck on sale in most shops today is the result of much cross-breeding during the past 25 years. It is also more likely to come from Lincolnshire, Norfolk or Wiltshire.

Ducks available throughout the year weigh between 5 and 5.5 lbs but there are specially reared birds for the Christmas

Sainsbury's rump steak is down 80p to £2.28 a lb and home-produced pork chops are down 24p to £1.18 a lb. Beam topside and silverside of beef £1.69 a lb, Dewhurst frozen ducks 79p a lb.

Marks & Spencer will have goose on sale from December 21 at £1.99 a lb. All Dewhurst shops in the South-east will take orders for goose, which will sell at £1.75 a lb.

Good fish supplies, and prices on a downward trend, bring cheering news for fish-lovers. Many species such as whiting, plaice, mackerel and Dover sole are a little cheaper.

Huss from Scotland at 95p a lb is excellent quality. Grey mullet at about £1.30 a lb is also good value. Smoked fish are also a little cheaper this week.

Look out for Arbroath smokies, at approximately £2.80 a lb, smoked sprats at £1.50 a lb, Loch Fyne kippers at £1.40 lb and smoked mackerel at £1.08 a lb. Top-quality smoked salmon is about £3.20 a quarter.

On the exotic side there are kingfish from the Seychelles at £3-£3.20 a lb. Swordfish from the Gulf of Mexico and dorado from Louisiana are both £5.15 a lb. Fresh Greenland prawns at £2.50 a quarter and fresh Norwegian prawns at £2.20 a quarter are excellent quality.

Tesco has fish in its best-buy category this week, which includes whole fresh salmon at £2.05 a lb and peeled prawns at £1.24 a quarter pound and hot smoked mackerel fillets (plain or peppered) at 96p a lb.

Sharon fruit from Carmel are plentiful at 25p to 40p each. Developed in the Sharon Valley in Israel they are similar in appearance to persimmon.

Apples and pears are plentiful as are oranges 10p to 30p each, satsumas and clementines 25p-40p lb. It is the last week of the Italia grape season, but supplies of pineapples are building up for Christmas. Fresh cranberries are widely available between 80p and £1 a half pound.

Brussels sprouts at 25p-45p lb are good quality. Home-grown Chinese leaves are 40p-75p a head and imported tomatoes are 50p-75p a lb. English spring onions at 30p-40p a bunch and beetroot are still available.

period weighing 6 to 6.5 lbs. Fresh birds cost 98p to £1.19 a lb and frozen between 79p and 89p.

Most cuts of home-produced beef and lamb will be up slightly this week with the exception of rump steak, which is down 6p a lb in some areas. Whole leg of lamb ranges from £1.55 to £2.08 a lb but could be as high as £2.75 a lb in the South-east.

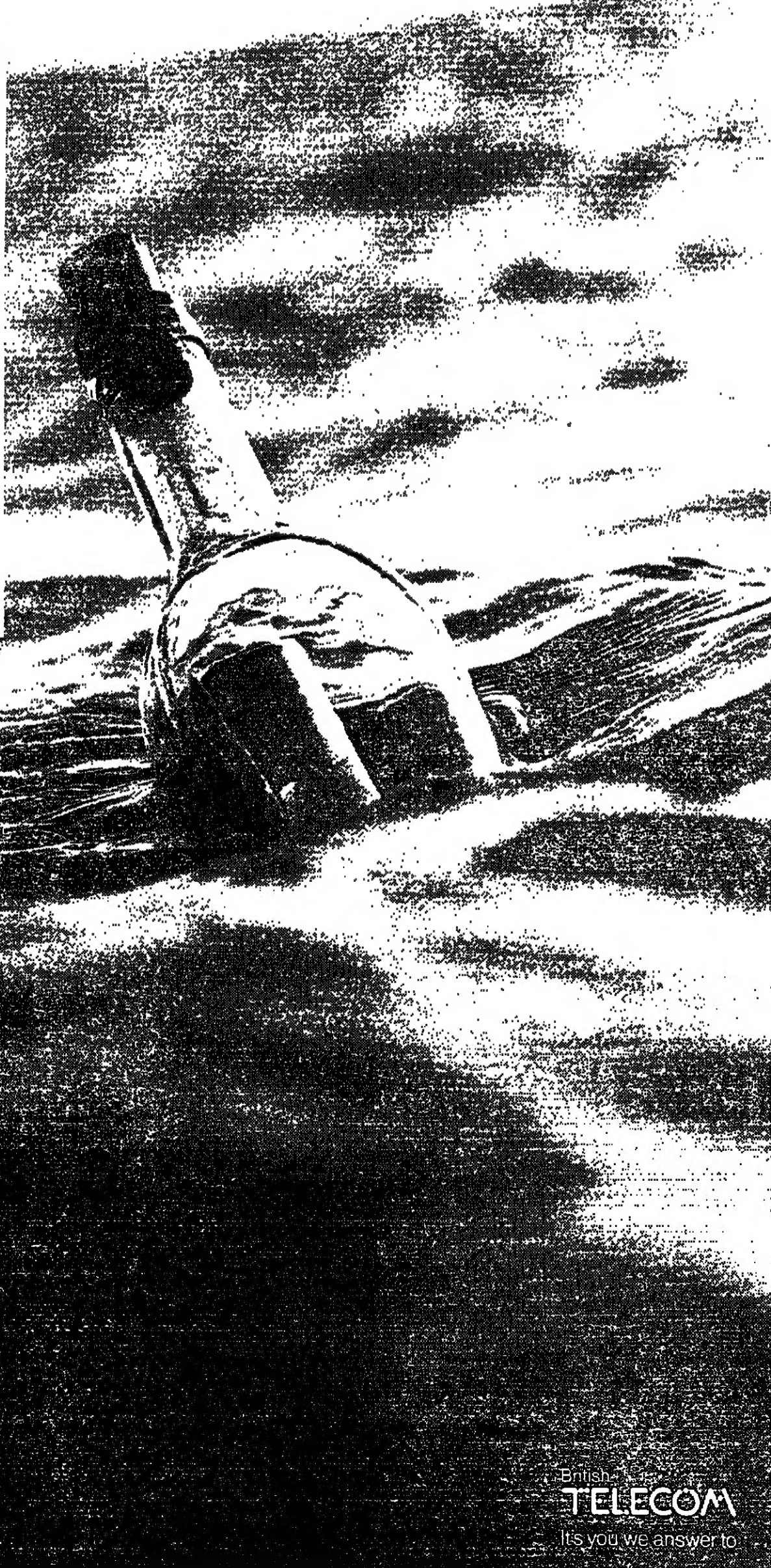
The average price of whole shoulder is £1.06 and loin chops cost between £1.74 and £2.49 a lb. Pork represents good value with the average price of whole leg costing £1.13 a lb or boneless shoulder £1.24 a lb.

Beef offers at shops and supermarkets this week include Tesco sirloin steak £3.48 a lb, extra lean mince £1.38 a lb, Asda frozen leg and shoulder of pork 99p a lb, and frozen grade A turkeys (standard 54p a lb) and frozen grade A turkeys (basted 57p a lb).

Safeway frozen oven-ready turkeys are 54p a lb,

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SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

ANGLO-SOVIET TIES

# America in grip of 'glasnost fever'

From Charles Bremner  
Washington

Nothing will be the same again. In three days, the Gorbachev charm blitz has left much of Washington starry-eyed, won over some of the oldest Russophobes, including President Reagan, and shifted the US-Soviet equation to the pleasure of the Russians and the horror of the American diehards.

The two leaders may not have agreed much on strategic missiles or set a date for an Afghanistan withdrawal, but Russian officials say that the new American attitude has exceeded their expectations and ultra-cautious Americans such as Mr George Shultz are conceding something close to delight.

"There are clues in the air," Mr Shultz said yesterday when asked about a new US-Soviet rapport. "Certainly it's going to be different from now." For sceptical conservatives, nothing could have been more revealing than Mr Reagan's conversion from anti-communist crusader to architect of a new detente.

Yesterday their astonishment was directed at a remark by the President that they say confirmed their worst fears. Mr Reagan told columnists on Wednesday night that he no longer believes the Soviet Union wants to spread its doctrines and power through out the world. "They no longer feel that way, I'm not dropping my guard or anything. But I think we have a potential here of a recognition that we have two systems that are not alike and have different values... but that have a desire to prove that we can live in the world together in peace," he said.

This was the man who only four years ago called Moscow the "focus of evil in the modern world" and said that the Russians reserved themselves the "right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat". "What a remarkable turn in history," lamented Mr Patrick Buchanan, the President's former friend and Communications Director. "The great communicator who preached peace through strength today preaches peace through peace."

Other previously suspicious Republican politicians appear to have been swayed by the Gorbachev courtship, which has also taken in newspaper publishers, leaders of the "intellectual" community and businessmen.

Several congressmen who listened to his pleas to ratify the new INF Treaty on



Mightier than the sword: Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Shultz exchanging pens after agreeing to expand air services between the US and the Soviet Union.

Wednesday morning were apparently mesmerized and have softened their opposition to the treaty. Notably, one of the harshest critics, Senator Alan Simpson, a Wyoming Republican, left the Soviet Embassy saying he was going to support the treaty and calling the meeting "fascinating, extraordinary".

Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic majority leader, urged a sense of reality. "We have to be very careful and not be swept off our feet," he said. "Yesterday, Senator Robert Dole, a Republican presidential candidate who had been politically damaged by his refusal to support the popular treaty, said: 'I think Gorbachev is charming, articulate, animated. But let's face it, we're all sort of suffering, I guess maybe enjoying, glasnost fever in this town.'"

The Soviet Union has earned its dividends from the Reagan change through a switch in tactics towards summitry. Previously, Mr Gorbachev laid down conditions for summit meetings, saying success could be measured only through concrete

agreements and pressing the President hard for concessions on specific areas such as space weapons and arms control. This time the Russians have dropped their refrain over Star Wars and lowered their expectations in terms of concrete results.

Mr Vitaly Korotich, Editor of the official weekly *Ogonyok* and one of the leaders of the new-style Soviet journalism, said that the Kremlin was shunning grandiose goals and aiming for a better US-Soviet atmosphere as a basis for later agreement.

Western experts say Mr Gorbachev took a clear decision several months ago to pursue business with the Reagan Administration rather than wait for the election and consolidation in office of a new American president, a process that would take at least two more years.

Mr Marshall Shulman, director of Harvard's Russian research centre, said yesterday that Mr Gorbachev "has come to us for a whole variety of things that he needs to make his economy work" and he had scored a triumph in Washington.

As well as arms treaties that will enable the Kremlin to divert resources to the civilian economy, the Kremlin badly needs help from American businessmen. Mr Gorbachev yesterday urged some 60 senior businessmen to join in joint ventures.

However, American firms, which have done little business with the Russians since the late 1970s, have been reluctant to seize the chance to join forces with Soviet enterprises.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### KGB fail to deter reformers

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A conference billed as the first staged independently in the Soviet Union on the issue of human rights opened last night in the flat of one of the organizers after the hall in which it should have been held was found padlocked and declared "closed for urgent disinfection" as part of a state campaign of disruption.

At least five of the delegates, including one from Czechoslovakia, were arrested en route and prevented from coming to Moscow, and 12 members of the organizing committee were warned by the security authorities that the conference - whose opening was timed to coincide with International Human Rights Day - was illegal.

Outside the hall in a bleak north Moscow suburb where the conference was due to begin, scores of placards KGB men were gathered in temperatures of -9 C when the first of the delegates arrived to find a large padlock on the door of the hall, for which they had paid a rental of 300 roubles (£300).

Among those who gathered under the suspicious eye of the KGB were a robust Russian Orthodox priest, who claimed to have been dismissed in January for preaching the gospel too assiduously, a leftist campaigner for the rights of Soviet invalids, and a member of a human rights monitoring group who had travelled from the southern republic of Georgia.

A total of 150 delegates have been invited to the five-

day conference organized by one of Moscow's new unofficial groups, Press-Club Glasnost. Working groups were scheduled to discuss the problems of human rights in the Soviet Union under 11 different headings ranging from the sensitive issue of minority nationalities to freedom of speech and the press. It is planned to publish the results.

The holding of the conference was regarded in diplomatic circles as a crucial test for the current state of the policy of *glasnost* at a time when there have been many signs of an organized backlash - including the brutal KGB

MPs and Soviet émigrés stood behind iron bars yesterday to focus on the plight of 20,000 Soviet Jews who have been barred from leaving the Soviet Union or are still waiting for exit visas. The protest outside the House of Lords on International Human Rights Day, called into question the process of *glasnost*.

crackdown earlier this week on Jewish protests - linked to the Washington summit.

"We think it is no coincidence that our conference has been subject to this kind of harassment when Mikhail Gorbachev and some of his allies in the Politburo are out of the country," one organizer, Mr Sergei Korotich, said.

Mr Korotich and other members of the organizing committee have declared their

## West considers how to avoid 1988 let-down

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

As the Washington summit draws to a close, an urgent question facing the West is how to prevent the euphoria of 1987 turning into the disappointment of 1988.

Signs that public expectations of blossoming East-West relations had been raised beyond realistic levels emerged yesterday in both the United States and Europe.

Whitehall and Washington have seen the INF Treaty as a triumph capable of standing alone without major progress on other fronts, the public has been looking for some further breakthrough.

If nothing substantial has emerged between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev, disillusionment could be a liability for Mr Reagan during the 1988 election campaign. But the situation will also expose a gap between British and American perspectives.

Unlike Washington, Whitehall is in no hurry to achieve the Start (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) agreement to reduce strategic weapons by 50 per cent.

The chemistry between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev seen during her Moscow visit last spring and at RAF Brize Norton on Monday may have given the impression of a heady political affair. But the policy behind it is slow and cautious.

Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe decided in 1983 to develop relations gradually, giving measures to improve mutual confidence much higher priority than arms cuts.

But the lack of haste does not mean that nothing is happening. Efforts to "thicken" the relationship (a Whitehall adaptation of culinary jargon) are being made on a broad front.

These are the developments likely during 1988:

**High-level exchanges:** Sir Geoffrey Howe is to visit Moscow for the third time in January or February. He is also expected largely to complete his second tour of East European capitals. A date may be set for Mr Gorbachev's promised visit to Britain.

**Trade:** Measures to increase Anglo-Soviet trade by 40 per cent by 1990 are being led by the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission, an inter-governmental body. Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, took seven leaders of British industry to Moscow in October, and there is to be a return visit by Soviet industrialists. Britain suffers a substantial trade deficit (1986 imports: £725 million; 1986 exports: £539 million).

**Culture:** Soviet academics are to take part in higher education study tour of Britain in February. Soviet delegates will attend seminar on contemporary literature at Cambridge in March. The National Youth

Orchestra will tour Soviet Union in August. The Foreign Office will select a British academic to give a important lecture in Moscow, in return for lecture given in London last month by Soviet academician Professor Abel Aganbegyan.

**Confidence-building measures on chemical weapons:** 1. British officials to visit Soviet chemical warfare site at Shikhany next summer. They are expected to include the director of Porton Down and the leader and chief scientist of Britain's delegation to the 40-nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. The Foreign Office is hoping Moscow will allow access to more modern and sensitive facilities than the 1950s vintage equipment that was shown to delegates of the 40 nations in October.

2. Soviet officials to visit Porton Down, where production of British chemical weapons stopped in 1959 but anti-chemical warfare research continues. The date has not been set yet.

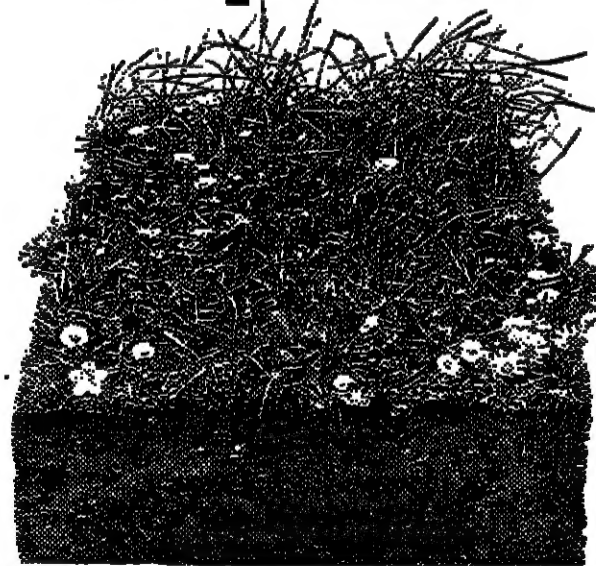
**Drugs:** Whitehall is about to announce the date of the signing of an Anglo-Soviet agreement to co-operate in the fight against drugs smuggling. It provides for exchange of information and should cut the flow of heroin being

carried by couriers from Afghanistan to Moscow, and from there to Western capitals.

**Terrorism:** A first visit to Moscow by Foreign and Home Office experts to meet Soviet counterparts has taken place and a follow-up is likely.

**Vienna talks:** Bilateral relations are likely to be affected by the outcome of the multilateral (35 nation) Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe talks in Vienna. The Vienna follow-up to the 1975 Helsinki agreement is of importance both on human rights and conventional forces reductions. Talks began in November, 1986, and are unlikely to finish before late 1988. The key to success would be a Soviet commitment to implement the human rights undertakings it accepted in 1975. The West would reply to this concession by allowing a new forum for talks on conventional forces to go ahead.

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## Where even the bellboys can read a Russian lip

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

Some of the waiters and bellboys at the Madison Hotel are not what they appear to be. They are listening, watching and furiously taking notes. They are even lip-reading. They are American spies with a mission to build psychological profiles of top Russians.

The 400-room hotel is filled with members of the Soviet delegation. Those who slip out to the nearby Safeway supermarket or the Radio Shack high-tech store to ogle in wonderment are discreetly followed, photographed and recorded.

The real target is Mr Mikhail Gorbachev himself. His every move

is watched by American psychiatrists and psychologists. Interpreters and guards are feeding every tiny detail of his body language to American intelligence agents to help build up a picture of the Soviet leader's emotions and personality.

A CIA source said lip-readers had been trained months in advance and would study hours of film of the Soviet leader. "You want to get his confidential aides to his side," the official observed. "He may be looking over a podium and say something snide or he may say something funny."

Soviet intelligence agents are also out in force on the streets of Washington this week. American

intelligence officials said the Russians were "very busy" and presumably had stepped up their interception of microwave telephone calls in Washington, which they are known to learn to a satellite receiving dish in Cuba.

US officials say the advanced eavesdropping process has been made possible because the Russians somehow obtained a US-made computer that has been installed on the top floor of the Soviet Embassy four blocks north of the White House.

For all the intelligence onslaught, the Americans have never been able to find out much about Mrs Raisa Gorbachev. But the Russians this week unexpectedly gave in to a

clamour for information by the American press and issued what they called a "biography", the entire contents of which read: "Raisa Maximovna Gorbacheva, a Russian, was born in the Siberian city of Rubtsovsk, in a family of a railway engineer."

Much has been made of the snuffly exchanges between her and Mrs Nancy Reagan this week, in particular Mrs Gorbachev's hostile reflections on homelessness and poverty in America.

The Soviet leader's wife may have been moved to make her remarks after observing the pathetic spectacle of Lillie Smith, an elderly homeless

woman who has spent the entire summit wrapped against the chill wind in a deckchair a block away from the Soviet Embassy, surrounded by large posters protesting about US human rights abuses.

The drumbeat of protests is everywhere in Washington. Directly opposite the White House in Lafayette Park, all along Pennsylvania Avenue and in the streets surrounding the Soviet Embassy there are Christian evangelists, Hare Krishna worshippers, Afghans, Soviet exiles, Jews and Islamic fundamentalists, Central Americans, Angolans, and many more besides. It has been a festival of free speech.

## MOSCOW'S MILITARY CHIEF

### Marshal an imaginative negotiator

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the Soviet Chief of Staff, who began the week as the least well-known of Mr Gorbachev's summit team, has rapidly emerged, especially after his historic tour of the Pentagon, as one of its key members.

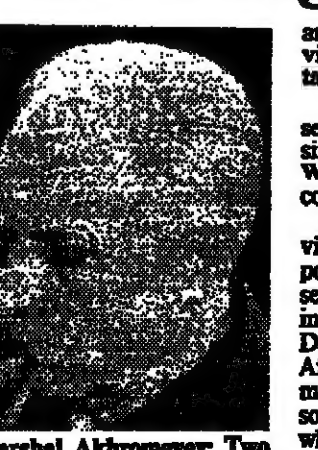
In full dress uniform, be-medalled and be-ribboned, Marshal Akhromeyev yesterday paid a second visit to the Pentagon, where he held talks with Admiral William Crowe, his US opposite number, and the other Joint Chiefs.

Appointed in September 1984, in succession to the more flamboyant and controversial Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Marshal Akhromeyev, aged 64, a wiry veteran of

the Second World War, is number two to Mr Dmitry Yazov, the new Defence Minister, who holds the lesser rank of general.

The marshal first caught the attention of the US authorities during the abortive summit in Iceland in October 1986, when he was marked down as the most influential member of the Soviet arms negotiating team and - perhaps surprisingly for a career soldier - the most imaginative at devising formulas for circumventing the trickiest problems.

Last month in Geneva, he was paid a high compliment by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who expressed optimism as soon as he heard that Marshal Akhromeyev was on the delegation



Marshal Akhromeyev: Two visits to the Pentagon.

arms-control move will be viewed by the Moscow military establishment.

Born in May 1923, he has served in the Soviet Army since 1940. During the Second World War he was a battalion commander of tank troops.

In a recent and rare interview with an American correspondent, the marshal expressed a number of strong views, including the opinion that the December 1979 invasion of Afghanistan "was not a mistake", in contrast with some senior Kremlin figures, who have expressed regret about the costly intervention.

The marshal acknowledged that the published figure for Soviet military spending - 20.2 billion roubles (£20.2 billion) this year - reflected only personnel, pensions, training and logistics, and not weaponry.

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## THE SUMMIT

## MISSILE INSPECTION

## Warhead stores out of bounds

By Michael Evans  
Defence Correspondent

Soviet inspectors who arrive at the two cruise missile bases at Greenham Common and Molesworth will have no right at any stage to demand to see the nuclear warheads, because they are not "treaty limited items", it emerged yesterday.

British officials who are now drawing up the details for the inspection programmes, based on the protocols of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, emphasised yesterday that only the missiles and the launch vehicles are covered by the agreement.

Both Molesworth and Greenham Common will remain operational for as long as they retain "rights" of missiles. The single warheads for the 112 cruise missiles now deployed at the two bases — 96 at Greenham Common and 16 at Molesworth — are kept in separate storage facilities because they are never deployed on training exercises.

The British officials said yesterday that the Soviet inspectors would be permitted without the INF Treaty to look inside any building if they could argue that it was big enough to house a missile. But this right would not be extended to any storage facility containing warheads.

The warheads are not "treaty limited items" because their contents, the nuclear fissile material and secret guidance systems, will not be destroyed. Both sides will be allowed to store these materials or make some use of them in other weapon systems.

The officials said yesterday that the total number of missiles at the two bases exceeded the 112 deployed but denied that they were "retired" missiles. "There is a small amount of spare equipment at each base," one official said.

The Memorandum of Understanding contained in the



The INF Treaty was originally published without the lengthy memorandum of understanding because, US officials said, it had information about the location of all Soviet and US missiles which had not yet

been declassified. Soviet spokesmen said they had no objection to the publication, but there was speculation the US was worried by possible terrorist attacks. There are 120 Soviet locations that will be

open to inspection, including storage and support facilities and sites in East Germany and Czechoslovakia there are thought to be around 25 US sites in all, including eight in Europe.

SS 4 deployed missiles, 356 non-deployed medium-range missiles, 387 deployed shorter-range missiles and 539 in storage. The SS 20 has three warheads, while the SS 4 and SS 23 have single warheads.

The officials said yesterday that the Soviet inspectors would not be able to count the warheads at Greenham Common and Molesworth. The warhead-counting procedure would be carried out at the American "elimination facility" once they had been returned to the US.

Under the verification package, the details of which

will be formally signed between each European basing country and the US today in Brussels, the teams of 10 inspectors for each base will be allowed to carry out an inspection lasting 24 hours, although an extension of a further eight hours could be requested.

The officials said that the Russians would be given a briefing for about an hour and be supplied with a diagram as well as a list of the number of missiles and launch vehicles on site.

The inspectors and 10 aircrew flying them in will first have been vetted by the British authorities. The

Inspection Protocol allows the authorities to reject anyone known to have been involved in criminal activity in Britain or previously expelled. The approved list of inspectors would all have diplomatic status during their stay in Britain.

The officials confirmed that the hardened shelters at the two bases which are supposed to be able to withstand conventional attack would have to be demolished. Greenham Common and Molesworth cost £174 million to develop as cruise missile sites. The US contributed £78 million, the British Government £36.9 million and Nato £59 million.

## INF NEGOTIATIONS

## Document details underline hard bargaining

By Our Defence Correspondent

The phenomenal detail written into the two protocols and 17 articles of the INF Treaty betrays the agonising negotiations that went on in Geneva during the weeks before the final draft.

One issue that caused last-minute rows between the superpowers was the list of airports to be used for the transit of inspectors arriving to verify the removal of missiles from their bases. For East Germany, where the Russians have a small deployment of shorter-range missiles, the Soviet negotiators insisted on naming Berlin as the "point of entry". The Soviet

Union and East Germany have always tried to claim that East Berlin is the capital of the German Democratic Republic. But Berlin, East and West, is under four-power control and could never be recognized by the West as a capital. So Washington refused to accept East Berlin.

The Inspection Protocol lists — without any mention of the battle that was involved in the negotiations — Schönefeld airport, about six miles north-west of Leipzig, as the point of entry for East Germany.

The other points of entry are Washington and San Francisco, Brussels, the Rhein-Main air base at

Frankfurt, Rome, Schiphol (The Netherlands), RAF Greenham Common, Moscow and Krimsk (Soviet Union), and the Ruzyně international airport (Czechoslovakia).

There is one social aspect included in the Inspection Protocol. Inspectors will be allowed to travel within 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the inspection site with the permission of the host country escorts to enjoy "leisure activity". But they may have to be officially accompanied, if it is thought necessary.

The setting and drive for the INF Treaty is underlined in the opening

words of the 17 articles which state that both sides were guided by the objective of "strengthening a strategic stability", convinced that the measures set down in the treaty will help "to reduce the risk of outbreak of war and strengthen international peace and security". But even the names of the missiles to be eliminated varied between the US and Soviet camps. The Russians apparently use the same designations as Nato for the American INF missiles but their own SS 20 they call RSD 10 and the SS 4 is known as R 12. The SS 12 and SS 23, the shorter-range Soviet missiles, are designated as OTR 22 and OTR 23.

## THE OTHER SUMMIT

## 'Style Wars' deal still far away

From Charles Bremner  
Washington

With the treaty signed and the two leaders exchanging cosy Mikhaels and Rons, the spotlight for a while turned to that more drama-laden summit — Raisa's coffee with Nancy.

The coffee call and White House tour on Wednesday was the only formal get-together of the week for the two first ladies, who experts say have been on far from friendly terms.

Journalists who have been poring over one of the key summit issues — is Nancy really offended, and will Raisa upstage her again? — thought for one moment that they were about to get an answer straight from the source.

"The crucial issue which is exciting the whole world is the one that concerns us today," Mrs Gorbachev told breathless reporters as Mrs Reagan greeted her in the White House doorway. "That is the great historical moment which was the signing of the treaty," her interpreter went on, as faces fell.

The two first ladies, adversaries in the "Style Wars" proclaimed by the popular press, demonstrated warmth and cordiality, apparently aware of all the speculation about the chill between them.

This fooled few experts. Enemies always smile and joke at the "photo-opps", the older hands advised less seasoned colleagues.

Mrs R took Mrs G's arm while Mrs G told the horde: "We are continuing our personal acquaintance... We have many subjects for discussion."

To a reporter who asked the crucial question about antagonism, Mrs Reagan replied: "That's so silly, I'm not making any ill feelings."

Mrs Gorbachev reassured the gathering: "Everything is all right, and it seems to me Mrs Reagan gave the answer. She is the hostess and that was her word."



Friendly persuasion? Mrs Reagan interrupts an impromptu press conference by Mrs Gorbachev to hasten the start of their joint tour of the White House.

The Soviet and American spokesmen said later that the two first husbands had prolonged their Wednesday-morning talk on Afghanistan and other matters to allow Raisa and Nancy to wind up their own discussions.

Now that glasnost has taken the spice out of old-style Kremlin-watching, the spousologists have adapted their techniques, such as measuring proximity in public, to the business of gauging the Nancy-Raisa rapport.

When Mrs Reagan took Mrs Gorbachev's arm at the welcoming ceremony "Mrs Gorbachev appeared to take a step away," The New York Times pronounced.

"Nancy has one style blunder," said USA Today. "She has a pained look whenever she rubs elbows with Raisa."

Mrs Reagan's pain is said by her associates to come from Mrs Gorbachev's tardiness in accepting her invitation to the

of Sciences were lined up outside in the cold to greet her after a briefing from an Academician, Professor Yevgeny Velikhov, her husband's top scientific adviser.

Her motorcade of Zils and escorts swept up — and then zoomed on, without stopping to look at the monuments. "I've got too little time," was her refrain of the day.

The White House banquet and the chance to sing along with "Midnight in Moscow" rendered by Van Cliburn, her favourite pianist, seemed to have improved her spirits.

The following day she entered into a little of the chat that she shared with reporters in Reykjavik and elsewhere.

"Good morning," she ventured in English to the reporters this time. "I like art," she continued in Russian.

At the National Gallery, she saw an exhibit by the US painter, Georgia O'Keeffe, whom she called "a great American painter — and most important — she was a woman."

Mrs Gorbachev described herself as a university-trained philosopher with an amateur's appreciation for art.

Mrs G, once the subject of gushing praise and features on the American television show, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, has clearly been aiming to quash accusations at home that she has strayed too far from the role of dutiful Kremlin spouse.

Apart from her Persian lamb coat, the rest of her wardrobe is being written off as drab and dowdy, severe and "schoolmarmish".

"She looks a little like a middle-aged Leslie Caron," the *Ladies' Home Journal* reported.

But neither has Mr Gorbachev's choice of clothes earned praise in the Washington of power-dressing.

At the White House ceremonies, his short grey overcoat and tartan scarf have been no match for Mr Reagan's elegant long black coat and white scarf.

He was also faulted for shunning tradition at the White House black-tie banquet and turning up in what a *Washington Post* writer called "plain woollen garments tailored for him in Savile Row".

## NATO DILEMMA

## Germans wary as focus switches to Europeans

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Nato yesterday began to digest the outcome of the Washington summit and to tackle the dilemma of how to build on the momentum by taking the disarmament process further without undermining West European security.

As the Nato Council convenes today at foreign and defence minister level, Nato officials have said that Mr Gorbachev could catch the Western alliance off-guard by proposing further initiatives at a time when West Germany is at odds with the other European allies over the dangers of a slide towards a "de-nuclearized" Europe.

The East-West spotlight moves today not only to Brussels, where Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, will address the Western alliance, but also to East Berlin, where Mr Gorbachev will brief the Warsaw Pact on the summit results. Mr Gorbachev could propose cuts in conventional forces, or even a "third zero" in nuclear disarmament to follow the INF Treaty, Nato officials said.

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, said on the eve of today's crucial meeting that although the Europeans fully supported the INF deal, it was "only a small step". The "military realities" of the Warsaw Pact's advantages, especially in conventional and chemical weapons, remained.

Mr Shultz will today join the allies in greeting the INF treaty as a "milestone" and urging its ratification by the US Senate. Lord Carrington said yesterday that the United States should not "misunderstand" European attitudes, a reference to some European and especially West German reservations.

But behind the scenes the euphoria over the signing of the INF Treaty is already fading, and Nato — especially West Germany, which feels uniquely exposed to Soviet conventional forces and shorter-range nuclear weapons — is looking ahead to the next steps.

As Chancellor Kohl observed yesterday in Bonn, these steps begin with a 50 per cent cut in strategic missiles and include the Nato-Warsaw Pact conventional forces reduction talks in Vienna.

Nonetheless, for Bonn, whose anxieties look certain

to dominate Nato's deliberations, it is the short-range nuclear missiles with a range less than 300 miles which arouse by far the greatest concern. German officials, including Herr Kohl, are out of step with the allies in insisting on a link between reductions in such weapons and conventional reductions, a linkage specifically rejected yesterday by senior Nato officials involved in the Vienna negotiations.

"With Washington behind him, Gorbachev could well now suggest a third zero on short-range weapons to follow the double zero eliminating the two classes of missiles with a range of between 300 and 3,400 miles," one Nato diplomat said.

## Challenge to West's planes

The Soviet Union's latest combat fighter aircraft are challenging the superiority in conventional air power that Nato has enjoyed since the Second World War (Michael Evans writes). The latest edition of *Jane's All The World's Aircraft*, published yesterday, reports that Moscow has made rapid advances in technology, producing jet fighters that compare favourably with Nato air forces.

Mr John Taylor, its editor, said Nato could meet the urgent need to equip its air forces for their new commitments only if it used the skills of all the aircraft designers, engineers and manufacturers within the alliance.

This has appeal for the West Germans, since the short-range weapons remaining after INF could only fall on German soil — either East or West — if fired in anger.

But the third zero has little or no appeal for other Nato members, including Britain, which fear it would further Mr Gorbachev's presumed aim of bringing about the de-nuclearization of Western Europe. Nato officials argue this would leave Europeans dependent on a distant US nuclear umbrella.

In yesterday's Bundestag debate on arms control, Herr Kohl deliberately gave equal weight to conventional imbalance and the short-range issue. Nato agreed at Reykjavik in June to formulate a

comprehensive post-INF package of priorities to include both questions. But this is regarded as a long-term goal and unlikely to be achieved before the next Nato Council next summer in Spain.

In any case, most European nations want to retain Nato's short-range weapons, such as Lance, and if possible modernize them. This puts the short-range missile question low on the list of priorities. "It is on the back burner whether Bonn likes it or not," one official said.

At a ceremony today foreign ministers from the European basing countries, including Sir Geoffrey Howe, will sign bilateral agreements with the United States laying down the conditions under which inspectors will be allowed access to missile bases and other facilities to verify launcher and warhead destruction. Nato officials denied that the basing countries had been kept in the dark about the details of such arrangements, saying there had been Alliance consultation on the question for many months.

But for Herr Kohl, who helped to pave the way for INF by withdrawing West Germany's aging Pershing 1A missiles, against the advice of his own Defence Minister, Herr Manfred Wörner, the INF triumph brings as many problems as it solves. The focus on German concerns will become even sharper if, as expected, Herr Wörner is named today to succeed Lord Carrington as Nato Secretary-General next June.

Herr Volker Ruhe, the Chancellor's defence advisor in the ruling Christian Democrats, said in Bonn that Nato must evolve a rational policy for future arms control rather than reacting to Mr Gorbachev and looking only a few steps ahead at a time. But defining the right balance and the right package will not be easy.

It will be made even more difficult if Nato decides not only to retain and upgrade short-range nuclear forces in the face of German doubts but also to reinforce defence with sea and air launched cruise missiles to compensate for the withdrawal of land-based cruise and Pershing 2s. Lord Carrington insisted yesterday that he had "no reason to suppose" that such compensatory measures were planned. Post-summit pitfalls, page 12

**ANC ACTS**  
**ANC SPEAKS**

"The violence could include... attacks on British companies and other western companies refusing to disengage and hasten the collapse of the system."  
Johnny Makatini, Director of International Affairs for the ANC.  
(Quoted in the *Globe and Mail* (Canada) 16th October 1987)

"We are going to step up the struggle... The ANC embraces violence."  
Oliver Tambo. (Press conference at the House of Commons, May 1987)

"Together, hand in hand, with our boxes of matches and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country..."  
Winnie Mandela. (Quoted by Agence France Presse, 13th April 1986)

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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Manila police foil 'Marcos plot'

Manila (Reuters) — Police said an apparent plot to disrupt next week's South-East Asian summit here was exposed yesterday when a supporter of Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the former Philippine President, was arrested in possession of 250 sticks of dynamite. Police said the suspect, Roberto Eusebio, informed them that the dynamite was given to him by another Marcos supporter and was to be made into bombs of between 15 and 20 sticks of dynamite each.

The arrest occurred only hours after two boxes packed with dynamite and wired to a timing device were found at the City Hall. A third box of dynamite was found at a nearby school. Earlier, police said a rash of bomb incidents in recent days signalled a serious threat to the country's stability in the run-up to the December 14-15 summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, the Manila area military commander, said: "We aborted other plans to bomb several places in Manila. It's possible there are still several other places where bombs may have been planted. I have directed police to look for them," General Aguirre said.

## Ruhr blockade

Bonn — Steel workers in Duisburg yesterday cut off the city from the rest of the Ruhr by blocking Rhine bridges and road junctions in protest against the planned closure of a Krupp plant with the loss of 5,300 jobs (John England writes). Thousands of steel workers brought rush-hour traffic to a standstill. Public transport also stopped running.

There were similar problems in several other Ruhr cities as steel workers went on strike in sympathy with their colleagues in Duisburg. In Bonn, Herr Norbert Blum, the Minister for Labour, appealed to other firms to find jobs for the threatened steel workers.

## Blast stops elections

Athens — Elections at the influential Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry were called off abruptly yesterday after a bomb explosion in its eight-storey headquarters in central Athens. Five employees were injured, one of them critically (Mario Modiano writes).

No one so far has claimed responsibility for the attack, but an anonymous warning was received by the switchboard of an Athens newspaper barely four minutes before the bomb exploded on the sixth floor of the building, which was being used as a canteen.

## Rock gets new party

Gibraltar — Mr Joe Pictaluga, who was right-hand man to Gibraltar's newly retired Chief Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, is to form the Independent Democratic Party, the Rock's third political party (Dominique Searle writes).

His new party will fight the introduction of socialism by the Opposition leader, Mr Joe Bossano. Mr Pictaluga believes that without Sir Joshua the government party will be unable to stop a Socialist election win.

## Ershad frees 19

Dhaka (Reuters) — The Government of Bangladesh yesterday freed Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khalida Zia, the two main opposition leaders, and 17 others to foster peace talks between President Ershad and the dissidents who have pledged to topple him.

But Sheikh Hasina, who leads the Awami League, immediately turned down any talks with the President and repeated her demand for his resignation. Police stopped hundreds of party workers outside her house where she had been confined since her arrest on November 11, and used teargas and batons to break up other anti-Ershad rallies.

## Poll date for Haiti

Miami — Haiti's junta will swear in its own electoral council tomorrow and hold a new election on January 17 (Alan Tomlinson writes). This action follows the refusal of most independent Haitian institutions to co-operate with the Government by nominating new representatives to the election-organizing body and the issuing of a joint declaration by three of the leading presidential candidates vowing to boycott any ballot run by the junta.

## Cambodia talks off



A decision yesterday by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former ruler of Cambodia, to cancel two further sessions of peace talks with the Cambodian Prime Minister, Mr Hun Sen, because his coalition partners were not taking part appears to be the result of pressure from China (Alexander Johnson writes). It appears to deal a severe blow to the fragile peace plan tentatively drawn up last week between the two men in talks near Paris.

## Iran leadership

## Khomeini rethinks Tehran succession

By Hashir Teimourian

Ayatollah Khomeini, the spiritual head of Iran, appears to have reshaped radically his plans for the national leadership after his death, according to sources in Tehran.

There is speculation in the capital that he has rejected the idea of a single theologian to succeed him, and now favours the election of a council.

Such a move would represent a setback to Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, who had been named as the designated successor to Ayatollah Khomeini. Over the past year, Ayatollah Montazeri's political influence and moral prestige have suffered major blows with the arrest and execution of his former secretary and right-hand man, Mehdi Hashemi, as a murderer and plotter against the state.

Tehran sources now suggest that while Ayatollah Montazeri might still be expected to be a member of a new council of leadership, Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rasanjani, the influential Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, and one or more other clerics would also be brought in. Speculation about the succession was fuelled yesterday after a wrangle developed among Ayatollah Khomeini's top advisers over the secrecy of his testament — effectively, his will for the nation — which he has just altered for the first time in five years.

The question arose of whether the two copies of the new document he had prepared for safe keeping in separate Iranian shrine cities should be ritually sealed in his presence or elsewhere.

The Ayatollah had invited 10 senior officials to his home in northern Tehran to decide how many of them should accompany the documents to the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad. After several changes of mind because of the contradictory proposals, it was eventually decided that the 10 should go to the Islamic Majlis (Parliament) — the power-base of Hojatoleslam Rasanjani — where they would surround an expert to seal the documents.

The authorities played down suggestions that the new testament diverged radically from that handed over to the Assembly of Experts five years ago. It was revealed in 1985 that the assembly had nominated Ayatollah Montazeri as the designated successor.

Yesterday observers noted that he had left the assembly by the time the new document got under way. He later met Ayatollah Khomeini "to discuss the affairs of the country", state radio said.

● **BAHRAIN:** The Singapore-flagged tanker Norman Atlantic founder and sank in the outer Strait of Hormuz last weekend, the first ship in the Gulf "tanker war" to be sunk or written off after an attack by Iranian gunboats (A Correspondent writes).

The 85,129-tonne vessel, loaded with volatile naphtha, was ambushed by up to three gunboats last Sunday, sank at about 5 am in 300 ft of water off Oman. Gulf shipping officials said she would pose no hazard to navigation. The loss of the tanker was estimated at £16.6 million.

## Mozambique fear and famine shocks Geldof

From Paul Valley  
Inhama, Mozambique

There were 800 more frightened, naked and starving people to be fed in the small Mozambican town of Inhama yesterday.

To the Red Cross staff there, they were yet another batch in the thousands of refugees who have been trickling into their reception centre for many months. To Mr Bob Geldof it was a shocking introduction to a famine of a different kind.

The 800 had arrived in three different groups the day before. For the past four months they had been living on the roots of banana trees and wild berries in an area where it has not rained properly since 1982. But the cause of their arrival was something more distressing — they were fleeing from the Mozambique National Resistance whose guerrillas have been terrorizing the region.

Mr Geldof, who for the past two years has confined his Band Aid projects to African countries bordering the Sahara, was visibly shocked at the sight of the 800, sitting in eerie silence in the shade of a line of trees. "My God, it's like Ethiopia in 1985 all over again," he said.

Several of the children were clearly on the point of death. Small babies lay listless in their mother's arms. The skin hung in wrinkles around the shrunken thighs of one little boy. Flies buzzed around the crusty scabs on his eyes.

Others, their heads appearing swollen by comparison with their fragile little limbs, pulled with forlorn hope at their mothers' sagging breasts. Their older brothers and sisters sat around them. They were desperately thin. Their bellies swelled like obscene balloons — the combined effect of parasites, vitamin deficiency and malnutrition.

At the end of the row the men sat separately. There were not many of them.

One of the peasant women, Louise Enema, spoke apprehensively for them all. "The bandits came and kidnapped our men. So we ran away. We were very weak. Since August we have eaten only banana roots and wild berries because there is no rain. If we did plant a crop the bandits would steal it or destroy it."

Mr Geldof asked her if many people had died. "Many died in the villages. More died during the journey."

Some of the refugees had walked for three days to get to the centre. For Louise Enema and her three malnourished children, it had been a second escape.

"I was captured by the bandits before. It was on the 25 June 1985. She had been a captive for two years, she said. But now, the more ques-

tions the pop star asked, the less she answered. Finally she turned her head to one side and refused to say another word.

Aid workers filled the gap. They had dealt with thousands of traumatised refugees. The stories which eventually were passed from them were the same as those told in dozens of other reception centres through which a total of 1.8 million displaced farmers have passed.

They told of schools and hospitals attacked by guerrillas, and of the nurses and teachers who were mutilated, bayoneted to death or shot before the people's eyes. They told of women raped, and children aged eight conscripted to their cause.

Mr Geldof was shocked into an uncharacteristic silence. Only later did he fulminate for the television cameras.

"It is particularly distressing to

come here after Ethiopia. In Ethiopia of course, there are political factors which aggravate the famine. But 80 per cent of the problem there is the weather. Here the weather is only 5 per cent of the problem. The real cause of all this is barbaric thuggery," he said.

"To call these people bandits is to grace them with more than they deserve. What ideology can justify cutting off a teacher's ears and nose, deliberately polluting wells by pushing dead bodies down them and ripping open the stomach of pregnant women and leaving the foetuses alive. All this is well documented. But few people in England realize how horrible it is. The world cannot do enough to counter it."

The 800 were given food by the International Committee of the Red Cross from their supplies which arrive almost daily from Beira in an old Dakota aircraft.

## US envoy hits out at apartheid and urges majority rule

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr Edward Perkins, the US Ambassador to South Africa, who is the first negro to hold the post, has called for a government here that truly represents the country's black majority, and described apartheid as "one of the century's most disastrous feats of social engineering".

"South Africa faces a major transformation of its political structure," Mr Perkins wrote in an article in the latest issue of the magazine *Leadership*, which went on sale yesterday and is widely read in the business community.

"I sense a growing realization that a valid political system here must be one that correlates with the demographics of the country — not merely black participation or black co-operation, but a government which truly represents the majority of South Africans," the Ambassador said.

"The majority must have a significant say in how that government is formed," he added. "I do not think that elaborate schemes which try to give an impression of black representation, but actually maintain white power, will work."

This latter statement could be read as a reference to Pretoria's proposed National Council, an advisory body, on which blacks would sit with government representatives.

and which would recommend constitutional changes but have no legislative or administrative power.

The article is a break with the self-effacing style which Mr Perkins, a gentlemanly career diplomat, has adopted up to now. It also puts a sharper focus on Washington's policy towards South Africa, which hitherto has been careful not to seem to be prescribing to Pretoria.

Mr Perkins comes as close to recommending black majority rule as the euphemisms of diplomatic language permit. He adds the qualification, however, that "to hasten the process of change, and to avoid bloodshed and chaos, it will be necessary to provide some kind of reassurance to Afrikaners".

Afrikaners, who dominate the white population and control the Government, "will want to know that sometime after the transition they will not end up defenceless and dispossessed in the land of their birth," Mr Perkins says, apparently acknowledging the need for some kind of constitutional safeguard for minorities.

His arrival here in November 1986, was greeted with cautious comment by militant blacks. Since then, Mr Perkins has quietly visited many black townships, cultivated a wide range of black and white contacts, and earned the

prudent respect of several leading black activists who were initially scornful of his appointment.

● **Terror conviction:** A self-confessed communist of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the outlawed African National Congress, was sentenced to 17 years in jail yesterday after being convicted in the Cape Town Supreme Court of terrorism and attempted murder.

Yesterday police reported that they had killed "four suspected terrorists" and seized large quantities of weapons in a pre-dawn raid yesterday on a house in a township outside Port Elizabeth.

In the Cape Town trial, Mxolisi Petane, aged 29, was found guilty of placing a bomb in a car outside a shopping centre. The bomb did not explode. He was also implicated in two incidents in which shots were fired at policemen.

Meanwhile, Mr Govan Mbeki, the veteran ANC leader, recently released from jail, is to address a private meeting in Cape Town tomorrow. Mr Dullah Omar, chairman of the Western Cape region of the UDF, announced yesterday.

Earlier this week, Mr Mbeki was refused permission to address an open-air rally in the Athlone Coloured township on Sunday.

## Shoot-out in black police mutiny

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

About 60 black municipal policemen mutinied in the Sebokeng black township, 40 miles south of Johannesburg, yesterday after being ordered by their white commanding officer to conduct a vehicle inspection.

The incident is the first of its kind — or, at any rate, the first to be reported — and is potentially of great significance. Half of the 57,000 men in the South African Police (SAP) are blacks, and the force's efficacy depends in

large part on their loyalty and reliability.

According to a statement by police headquarters in Pretoria, the mutineers tried to run the commanding officer down in their vehicles, and were then involved in an exchange of gunfire with members of the West Rand Unarmed Unit.

Seven of the mutinous black policemen were wounded, two of them by gunshot, and one needed hospital treatment, the police statement said. Nine-

teen were taken into custody.

According to the police account, there was a high-speed car chase between the mutineers and the unrest unit before the rebels were cornered.

It was also disclosed yesterday that 21 people have been hanged at Pretoria Central Prison over the past three days, seven yesterday, seven on Wednesday and seven on Tuesday. This brings to 164 the number of people, executed so far this year.

## Students bring chaos to Korean campaigns

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Militant students brought chaos to South Korea's presidential election campaign yesterday, disrupting rallies by the ruling party candidate and besieging opposition party offices.

The students' anger was directed mainly at Mr Roh Tae Woo, of the Democratic Justice Party, the chosen successor to President Chun Doo-hwan. They were hurled at him at a meeting at Kumsan in Cholla province, a stronghold of Mr Kim Dae Jung, of the opposition Party For Peace and Democracy.

Later Mr Roh was forced to cancel an appearance at Chongju, in the same province, when demonstrators threw petrol bombs, slashed loud-speaker cables and scattered tear-gas powder. Riot police dispersed them with tear gas.

In Seoul, students dem-

onstrated to urge Mr Kim Dae Jung and his opposition rival, Mr Kim Young Sam, of the Reunification Democratic Party, to unite and present a single challenger.

Groups gathered outside the two opposition party headquarters and sources said that some students were threatening to commit suicide unless the two Kim settled their differences.

With less than a week to go before polling day, prospects of closing the opposition ranks appear remote. The upshot is a close contest, and adding to the uncertainty is a general belief that at least 20 per cent, and perhaps as many as one-third, of the 25.8 million voters are still undecided. Barring an unexpected late swing to one candidate, the winner is unlikely to gain a real majority.



Queen Marie-José: Return pleases even Communists.

From Roger Boyes  
Rome

The Queen Mother of Italy, Marie-José of Savoy, will be allowed to return to the country, ending 40 years of foreign exile, after a precedent-setting decision in Rome yesterday.

President Cossiga, who chaired the Council of State session which gave the go-ahead for the Queen's return, has thus paved the way for a mending of the uneasy relationship between the Italian royal family and the Republic.

Queen Marie-José was the wife of King Umberto II, who reigned briefly after the collapse of fascism in Italy and died in 1963. Umberto and his family had to leave the country when a referendum decided by a 54 per cent majority to abolish the monarchy.

Some descendants of the royal line, notably the Duke of Aosta, continue to live in Italy, though barred from

political activity. But the "pretender" to the Italian throne, Victor Emmanuel, the son of Umberto, has been excluded from the country and will remain so even after the ruling.

The Queen Mother was born in 1906 in the Belgian port of Ostend, and is descended from the Saxe-Coburg family. It is expected that she will come back, probably before Christmas, with her grandson. Members of the State Council were disposed to make conditions — for example, that her entry into Italy be strictly as the widow of an Italian citizen and not as a Queen.

Others emphasized that her son must never be allowed to end his exile, as this would be a sign of forgiveness over the monarchy's co-operation in fascist rule.

But even the Communists seem to favour the end of Queen Marie-José's

## Nobel prize a birthday treat



President Arias of Costa Rica proudly showing his son, Oscar, daughter, Silvia, and mother the Nobel Peace Prize he was awarded in Oslo yesterday.

The prize was given in recognition of the work "he and the four other Central American leaders" have done towards bringing peace to the region (A Correspondent writes from Oslo). The Nobel Committee chairman, Mr Egil Aarvik, said it was not only "encouragement for your initiative for the future on the road towards peace."

At the age of 46, President Arias is one of the youngest Peace Prize winners and "has most of his life's work to come," Mr Aarvik said.

The audience at the ceremony in the university hall in Oslo included the Norwegian royal family and the former West German Chancellor Herr Willy Brandt, himself a past winner of the prize.

It was Oscar's eighth birthday and President Arias used the personal significance of the date to assure his son's generation that Costa Rica would "never support military solutions to the problems of Central America."

Señor Arias, who was elected President of Costa Rica in 1986, was the main architect of the Central American peace plan signed in Guatemala on August 7.

His initiative prompted the Nobel Committee to make him one of the least controversial Peace Prize winners, a decision "which is enhancing

Washington (AP) — The House of Representatives voted 215-209 on Wednesday to ban the US Government from seeking military aid from other nations for the Contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Government.

The House, controlled by Democrats, generally split along party lines as it banned so-called "third party" aid to the Contras after a contentious debate during which both sides used the Iran-Contra scandal to bolster their arguments.

The possibilities of success" in Central America, he said.

President Arias said he was seeking in Central America not peace alone, not peace to be followed some day by political progress, but peace and democracy together, indivisible, an end to the shed-

ding of human blood, which was inseparable from an end to the suppression of human rights.

"We believe justice and peace can only thrive together, never apart. A nation that mistreats its own citizens is more likely to mistreat its neighbours. We need to strengthen our institutions of peace like the United Nations, making certain they are fully used by the weak as well as the strong," he said.

President Arias said he was accepting the prize on behalf of the people of Costa Rica, "a country of peace" which disbanded its army in 1948.

He called on both East and West to leave the interpretation and implementation of the peace plan to the people of Central America. President Arias has repeatedly called for a halt to US support for the Contras in Nicaragua.

"Send our people ploughshares instead of swords, pruning hooks instead of spears. If they, for their own purposes, cannot refrain from amassing the weapons of war, then in the name of God let us leave them in peace," he said.

## Gaza violence intensifies

## Crack troops sent to quell riots

From Ian Murray, Gaza Town, occupied Gaza Strip

The weary soldier, standing in the smoke of the burning tyres, flagged down the car. "Be careful," he said. "It's a bad day in Gaza."

It was in a second day of sustained violence, tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition were flying up and down the 25-mile length of the occupied Gaza Strip. Some 20 Palestinians were injured, some by Israeli gunfire, to add to the toll of one dead — some sources say two dead — and 30 injured the previous day.

Anger at what was happening in Gaza spilled over into the occupied West Bank. In Nablin one 20-year-old was shot and killed and eight others injured. At Kaladnia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, the police fired tear gas to clear a boys' school flying

the Palestinian flag, which was being used as a base for stone and bottle throwing. Six policemen and at least 10 boys were injured and the camp was placed under curfew.

Since the beginning of October, 10 Palestinians and two Israelis have died violently in the Gaza Strip. The current troubles are seen by United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency officials as the worst so far in a spiral of mounting violence over the past year. The Israelis appear to agree.

They have just sent in crack paramilitary to help the infantry keep order, a sign, according to local, that things are as bad as they can be.

From first light yesterday the acid stench of burning tyres drifted up from dozens of roadblocks thrown up

across roads throughout the towns and camps of the Strip. Children arrived on time at school, but only to protest. Despite the fact that yesterday they were supposed to be taking important exams, they started demonstrations which led on to tear-gas and baton charges by security forces. The schools were shut.

So too were the shops, as merchants kept their metal shutters up to signal their protest. For much of the morning the town was largely deserted, with troops patrolling along roadways littered with burning rubbish, broken stones and scrap metal.

The area round Shifrah Hospital, scene of some of the worst violence on Wednesday, remained blocked off, though visitors were allowed through

on foot. Jabaliya camp, where the current state of unrest began, remained under curfew yesterday.

News that a fifth person had died from injuries caused when an Israeli truck collided on Tuesday with two Gaza cars carrying Arab workers, fuelled local resentment. Inside Jabaliya there is certainty that this was a deliberate act of revenge by the driver for the killing of an Israeli in Gaza on Sunday.

According to a senior UN Relief and Welfare Agency official yesterday: "As long as the Israelis don't evolve a policy which goes beyond keeping the people quiet, we are inexorably heading in the direction of increased violence."

## Italians allow exiled Queen Mother to return

From Roger Boyes  
Rome

The Queen Mother of Italy, Marie-José of Savoy, will be allowed to return to the country, ending 40 years of foreign exile, after a precedent-setting decision in Rome yesterday.

President Cossiga, who chaired the Council of State session which gave the go-ahead for the Queen's return, has thus paved the way for a mending of the uneasy relationship between the Italian royal family and the Republic.

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Others emphasized that her son must never be allowed to end his exile, as this would be a sign of forgiveness over the monarchy's co-operation in fascist rule.

But even the Communists seem to favour the end of Queen Marie-José's

long exile. One of their spokesmen, Signor Antonello Trombadori, declared: "It is true that Marie-José was a point of reference for the anti-Fascists. I agree that she should return, even this week, providing that it is not necessary to modify the Constitution." According to a public opinion poll published in a Rome newspaper, 67 per cent of Italians support her return.

An aristocratic charity ball — with anyone invited from the Hapsburgs to the Bourbons — is to be held in the coming week and it is hoped that the Italian Queen Mother will be there. Figuratively speaking, throats are already being slit in the pursuit of invitations.

The Italian taste for the monarchy is not, however, very deeply ingrained. It has been satisfied over the past decades by *paparezzi* excursions to Britain and glimpses of a relaxed

Victor Emmanuel on the ski slopes, not suffering unduly in exile.

A shooting incident some years ago — he wounded a German student who was sleeping in a boat near the Italian aristocrat's Corsica home — and his declared sympathy with Signor Licio Gelli, head of the banned P2 freemasons' lodge, have rather tarnished the appeal of installing a new king.

There is no longer a monarchist party. The last one, under the leadership of the shipowner, Achille Lauro, withered away after the anti-royalist referendum.

Monarchists say that King Victor Emmanuel III played an important role in displacing Mussolini, the Fascist dictator, by asking for his resignation in 1943. But most Italians believe that the monarchy was too accommodating to the Fascists.

سكس من الفصل



## Martens loses votes as Belgians shift ground before poll

From a large boarding near The Times Brussels office the plump, coiffed features of Dr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, stare down at passing traffic. Underneath is the word "Yes". Opinion polls increasingly suggest, however, that a large number of Belgians will vote "No" in Sunday's general election — perhaps enough to push Dr Martens out, ending the relatively stable period of coalition politics which followed his rise to power in 1979.

The Flemish magazine *Knaak*, defying a law banning opinion polls one month before the vote, this week published figures showing a loss of support for Dr Martens' Christian Democrats and their Liberal allies of the centre-right coalition and suggesting a corresponding rise in support for the two Socialist parties (Dutch and French speaking), but not enough for them to take office alone.

Belgian bankers and industrialists seem to be taking in their stride the possibility of a coalition including, or even led by, the Socialists.

They argue that the Socialists would not be able to depart radically from the highly successful Martens policy of supporting a mixed economy, introducing that-

From Richard Owen, Brussels

cher-style privatization and reducing public borrowing. Nonetheless, a change of leadership in Brussels would send a tremor of anxiety through the EEC and Nato. Belgium not only belongs to both, it also has symbolic significance as the home of Common Market and Nato institutions. Moreover, Europeans have become used to Dr Martens' "safe pair of hands" during his seven successive coalitions.

A Fleming, Dr Martens, aged 51, is widely respected by both the French-speaking and Flemish communities. It is possible that he may stay in office even in a new coalition line-up, if only because he is one of the few public figures in whom people on both sides of the language divide have confidence.

The election was called after months of manoeuvring over a dispute involving a French-speaking mayor in a Flemish area — Mr José Happart of Les Fourons in Limburg — who consistently refuses to admit that he can speak Dutch (or Flemish). It is a measure of the sensitivity which still surrounds the language issue that this minor incident could cause such disruption in the coalition. "Sometimes it seems as if the language

factor unites politicians more than party allegiance," one Belgian commentator said.

Ironically, the language issue, arising from decades of mutual resentment, has not figured as an important election topic. The focus has been on economic issues, but the policies offered by the Socialist leaders — Mr Guy Spitaels of the French-speaking Socialists and Mr Karel van Miert of the Flemish Socialists — do not look all that different from the Martens approach, except for greater emphasis on social spending and reducing unemployment. The swing against Dr Martens may, therefore, be partly based on the boredom factor which eventually afflicts all long-serving leaders in Western democracies.

Dr Martens himself has been less than vigorous in his campaign style this time, almost as if he is not averse to leaving office. Indeed, there is a suggestion that as a respected and convinced European he might wish to succeed M Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission.

Observers predict, however, that Dr Martens could end up leading an eighth coalition.

## Rabuka sworn in to Fiji's Cabinet



Beneath a portrait of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Fiji's former military leader, Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka — who declared the South Pacific state a republic in October — is sworn in yesterday as Minister of Home Affairs in the new Cabinet named by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Prime Minister. Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, left, the former Governor-General who resisted Brigadier Rabuka's coups in May and September but who is now President of Fiji,

conducted the swearing-in.

Full Cabinet: Prime Minister & Foreign Affairs Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Home Affairs National Youth Service & Auxiliary Army Services Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, Fiji's Affairs Colonel Vaitani Navunisaravi, Finance & Economic Planning Josephina Kamikamica, Education Felipe Bole, Primary Industries Villame Govelevu, Trade & Commerce Berenado Vanibobo, Health Apenisa Kunusiqa, Communications, Works & Transport Apsai Torn, Attorney-General & Justice Salioi Kepa,

Tourism, Civil Aviation & Energy David Pickering, Youth & Sport Colonel Ilaia Kacipolome, Rural Development & Rural Housing Colonel Apolosi Buivakaloma, Indian Affairs Mrs Irene Jai Narayan, Forestry Ratu Sir Josua Tavaiqila, Energy & Industry Relations Tania Veiata, Co-operatives & National Marketing Authority Iswari Bajpai, Women's Affairs & Social Welfare Ms Finau Tabakauoro, Housing & Urban Development Tomasi Vakatora, Lands & Mineral Resources Ratu William Tonganivalu, Information Charles Walter.

## Senate bar on modern jet sales to Saudis

Washington (Reuter) — The Senate has passed by a voice vote legislation to bar Saudi Arabia from getting the most sophisticated US fighter plane, the F15E.

The legislation was a result of a deal worked out by congressional critics opposed to proposed sales of the plane.

Under the Senate measure, which would have to be approved by the House, Saudi Arabia would be limited to no more than 60 of the older, less sophisticated models of the F15 fighter plane.

## Rebels strike

Colombo (Reuter) — Six Sri Lankan policemen were wounded when their vehicles hit a landmine in the east of the island, while in the north Tamil Tiger rebels abducted four officials supervising school examinations.

## Smog denial

Athens (Reuter) — The Government denied a report by the Greek Centre for Ecological Studies that 33 people had died in Athens and 604 people had been taken to hospital as a result of smog.

## Glasnost wall

Baghdad (Reuter) — President Saddam Hussein has decreed that Iraq's students be provided with a "glasnost wall" to express their views freely.

## STATE OF THE PARTIES

Belgian political parties.

Christian Democrats: CVP (Flemish), PSC (French speaking); Liberals: PVV (Flemish), PRL (French speaking); Socialists: SP (Flemish), PS (French speaking). Other parties include the Greens (Agalev), the Flemish nationalist party Volksunie, and the anti-tax party UDRT allied with the French Socialist Christians (or Christian Democrats).

Seats in Parliament after the last election in October 1985.

Government: Christian Democrats 49, Social Christians (French) Democrats 20, Flemish Liberals 22, French-speaking Liberals 24. Total seats: 115. Opposition: French-speaking Socialists 35, Flemish Socialists 32, Volksunie 16, Agalev 4, UDRT 1, others 9. Total seats: 97.

## Royal families linked

## India's wedding of the decade

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The most glittering wedding of the decade will be celebrated today, between the son and daughter of two of the most famous royal families of India.

In a land which, even low on the social scale, celebrates such events with vast movements of itself and the expenditure of many rupees, the alliance of the royal houses of Kashmir and Gwalior is expected to make such a reverberation that the republican houses of the country's founding fathers will shudder in unison.

The princely states of India used to be graded in a hierarchy defined by the number of guns fired in royal greeting, and the cream were entitled to 21-gun salutes. Only five belonged at this rarefied altitude, including both Kashmir and Gwalior.

In these non-monarchical days, the head of the Kashmir royal family goes under the more democratic style of Dr Karan Singh. The head of the Gwalior royal family is simply Mr Mathavram Scindia. Dr Singh is a former Minister of Education and of Tourism under the Janata regime. Mr Scindia is Railways Minister in the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The happy couple are Mr Vikramaditya Singh, aged 23, who has just completed his education at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and who has returned to take up the family business, running the hotel in the former royal palace in Srinagar, and Miss Chitrangada Raju, aged 28, a student at Jesus and Mary College in Delhi.

Since the bride's father foots the bills, the wedding is to be at Gwalior, where the castle and town are in the throes of a massive repainting. A 52-member committee of townfolk has been formed to ensure that the town looks its best for the occasion.

"People here do not see it as simply the wedding of the maharajah's daughter, but as the wedding of Gwalior city's daughter," said one democrat. "They are coming out sponta-

neously to do whatever they can for the occasion."

The best the groom's party will be limited to 100 and Dr Singh has invited a number of people associated with the rule of his father, Maharajah Hari Singh, including two Pakistanis, one of them the uncle of "Tiger" Pataudi, the cricketing prince, and the other Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, the former Foreign Minister.

"When my daughter was married I issued 1,000 invitations and 30,000 people came," said Dr Singh. Mr Scindia is reported to be issuing 50,000 invitations to his daughter's wedding.

The ceremony will take place today, and the celebrations will continue for two further days.

There are only two possible flies in this balm. One is a rule which, because of the drought emergency, limits wedding parties to 100 guests, with a possible 500 for extra-special occasions. But some way will no doubt be found round that.

The other is the attitude of the Queen Mother of Gwalior, who has been carrying on a long feud with her son, and is a leading light in the opposition political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party. The tension is there for all to see, for while the palace has been repainted a glistening white the Rani Mahal, the Queen's Palace, where the dowager Mrs Scindia lives, is untreated.

The Queen Mother attended, although briefly, her granddaughter's engagement party, but the wedding was nearly missed. The BJP called a statewide day of protest against the Government today and it looked as though she would prefer to be out on the streets courting arrest like a good party member.

However, thanks to the intervention of Dr Karan Singh, whose own political interests have been close to the BJP, the protest has been called off, and she now has no excuse for absence.

## Soviet apology for air incursion over Japan

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Union apologized yesterday for the intrusion of one of its Tu16 Badger bombers into Japanese air space over the southern island of Okinawa, saying the incident was unprovoked and due to poor weather.

During the incident on Wednesday morning, Japanese fighters fired tracer bullets to warn off the plane.

Mr Yuri Gremitskiikh, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a news conference: "On December 9, a Soviet aircraft twice violated the air space of Japan in the

area of Okinawa. This was unprovoked and due to difficult meteorological conditions. The Soviet Union expresses its regret about this incident and will take measures to ensure that such incidents do not occur again. The Soviet Union will provide all necessary information to the Japanese side."

● TOKYO: The Japanese Foreign Ministry called in the Soviet Ambassador yesterday to deliver a "very strong" protest about the incident (David Watts writes). Japan demanded that those responsible be punished.

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# Within the eye of the storm

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

## ZOOLOGY

Every year, millions of parasitic wasps of the genus *Trichogramma* are reared for use in the biological control of insect pests. These wasps lay their own eggs within the eggs of a bewildering array of host species and so help to kill insect pests. It is very important for the *Trichogramma* to lay the correct number of eggs since too many will result in an inadequate food supply and to larval starvation. A recent study (*Science* 237, p903) has shown that parasitic wasps can assess the size of the host egg with great precision and lay just the right number of eggs, even in complete darkness. When a female first walks over the surface of the host egg, she measures the time taken to cross it and adjusts the number of eggs she lays. If part of the host egg is experimentally blocked with a small plastic shield, the time she takes can be reduced — and she lays fewer eggs. If the shield is then removed, the female may continue to walk all over the egg, but her first walk across it has already programmed her clutch size. If her trip takes only half a second she lays one egg; but an eight-second walk produces over 30 eggs. *Andrew London*

## PUBLIC OPINION

The sea-change in public opinion on the issue of nationalization which ushered in the Thatcher era may be on the way out, according to a recent finding from a MORI corporate image survey. In the early 1970s, the proportion favourable to more nationalization was 3 per cent greater than those favouring privatization, and this rose to 7 per cent in 1974, the year of Harold Wilson's return to office. By 1975 however, the public thought the programme had gone too far, and favourability towards nationalization had gone into reverse, with 10 per cent fewer approving than disapproving. This opposition to nationalization increased throughout the late 1970s, reaching a peak of 21 per cent in 1980. Since then it has been on a steady decline, falling to 7 per cent last year and 4 per cent this year. So the numbers of people favouring more privatization and more nationalization are now roughly equal. *Robert Worcester*

It has seen off hurricane-force winds, but will the national grid's nerve centre weather privatization? William Greaves watches it at work

It was 2.30 in the morning of October 16 when the first rumblings of disaster reached the "quiet room" of the Central Electricity Generating Board's National Control Centre on London's South Bank. A 400-megawatt powerline between Southampton and Dungeness had tripped in high winds.

At 4am precisely, with hurricane-force winds battering the South-East, Britain's lifeline — its electric power link with France — was lost. Thus began the most critical six minutes in the history of the 4,800 miles of overhead lines and underground cables which make up the Super Grid.

Two giant Welsh power stations, and the nation's emergency gas turbine stations, were triggered into action; London was being served by just three operational circuits, one of which was 70 per cent overloaded; a 6 per cent voltage reduction was ordered as one in 10 homes in the South-east was cut off, and Tony Malins, the CEB's national control manager, was racing from his Hertfordshire home to take charge of a crisis.

By 8.30am, the grid link between Kent and Middlesex was restored and at 10am power was being bulk-supplied to every region in Britain. At a time when the Energy Secretary, Cecil Parkinson, is weighing up a bewildering array of optional routes towards a privatized electricity industry, seldom can an ill wind have blown so much good as that one did for the world's most envied integrated power system. The crisis had given a timely boost to the lobby which believes that, whatever the "carve-up", the grid and the power stations feeding it must stay in the control of one autonomous body.

On one afternoon this week the head and shoulders of that "body", housed in the "quiet room" consisted largely of five men — Malins, John Grundy, national control engineer, assistant control engineers John Livermore and Jim Holmwood, and Tim Lovell, future demand forecaster.

The time was almost 4pm, the day's peak just over an hour away. While his lieutenants gazed into computer monitors, occasionally



Power control: the Central Electricity Generating Board's "quiet room" at London's South Bank, where turbines, storms and television shows pose an ever-changing problem

PRODUCTION: Shows power generated in the six areas and amount exported and imported from each

DISTRIBUTION: Shows movement of power between areas to meet demand

ECONOMY DESK

NATIONAL GRID Shows distribution of sub-stations in England and Wales — north of the country is on the left. Lights show sections out of service

SYSTEM SECURITY DESK

TIM LOVELL: No 2 on Economy desk

JOHN LIVERMORE: Assistant National Control Engineer

JIM HOLMWOOD: Assistant National Control Engineer

JOHN GRUNDY: National Control Engineer

stabbing control buttons, Malins explained the messages coming from a wall of cross-crossing lines, flickering lights and statistics.

"You can see that the total demand at this moment in England and Wales is 39,320 megawatts and we're supplying 37,350 with the balance of 1,970 from France and 500 from Scotland. Leeds area is exporting 1,892 into Manchester area and 1,830 into Birmingham area. Birmingham, in turn, is pushing 3,940 into St Albans and 1,312 into Bristol. The sky's overcast all over the South — that'll be being demanded forward down here — but it's fine in the North..."

Unlike any other fuel, electricity cannot be stored in quantity. Only by minute-to-minute balancing of supply and demand can a perilously critical national equilibrium be maintained. The grid system can function only if it has

instant control of the transmission network and the supply source — 350 generators at 78 power stations throughout England and Wales.

Juggling between these is complex enough, but each power station has its own place in an economic order of merit, with nuclear, coal-fired and oil-fired stations working out the cheapest — and therefore operating round the clock to provide the basic supply. Fine tuning is supplied by the board's two pumped storage schemes at Dinorwig and Ffestiniog in North Wales, and cheap-to-build but costly-to-run gas turbine generators are held in final reserve for peak winter demand.

All this is further complicated because the prevailing direction of flow through the grid is from the coal-rich North to the more populous South-East. When that flow threatens to become too great

Grundy and his team have to order the reduction of cheap power in the North and introduce expensive gas turbine resources in the South.

Nor is the equilibrium assisted by the quirks of human behaviour.

Grundy tapped me on the shoulder and pointed to the frequency graph: the print-out of electricity demand had taken a sudden, violent lurch. "That's *The Young Doctors* just finished on ITV," he said. "The kids have all gone to the lavatory at the same time, causing water and sewerage pumps to switch on, and kettles are going for tea. John will be expecting it — we study the TV schedule every day — and look, he's started it off now. But he's using 450 MW reserve from Dinorwig."

In the few minutes leading up to

5pm — the critical time when industry and commerce is still working flat out and lights and heating going on at home — Grundy anxiously studied his prediction graph and watched the monitor to see how Livermore was getting on with his nightly juggling.

"He's just instructed full load on all conventional plant — that's nuclear, coal and oil — and he's really going for it now. Demand's up to 44,575 and he's up to 1,000 on pump storage. Generation isn't quite fast enough. He's ordered maximum generation on steam — that's five or 10 megawatts above full load on all conventional generators..."

Ten minutes later the crisis was over. At the "economy" desk, Livermore pushed his chair back and stretched his arms. "No problems tonight," he said.

But problems continue outside the "quiet room". When the Government decides on its electricity privatization formula, expected to be announced towards the end of this winter, the one agreed certainty is that it will not opt for the kind of one-piece sell-off it chose for British Gas.

But if the 12 area boards responsible for final distribution are independently privatized, who then should control the National Grid? Some say the CEB; others that it should be co-owned by the area boards; and yet others that it should be maintained as a national institution. And, whatever its ownership, should it continue to have manipulative control of the power stations? Whatever the long-term future, the vicissitudes of this winter, and its TV schedules, will be monitored with unflinching vigilance by the men and women of the "quiet room".

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1436

ACROSS

- 1 Savour (6)
- 4 Opening play (6)
- 7 Flimsy, easy (4)
- 8 Neapless capital (6)
- 9 Scott Joplin jazz (7)
- 11 Simple song (5)
- 12 D.H. Lawrence Paul Morel novel (4,3,6)
- 15 Deductive reasoning (5)
- 16 Juliet's family (7)
- 20 Sensational publicity (8)
- 21 Indian copper (4)
- 22 Milford (6)
- 23 Develop gradually (6)

DOWN

- 1 Good wishes (7)
- 2 Telling untruths (5)
- 3 Muslim judge (5)
- 4 Courageous, daring (4)
- 5 Wound dressing (7)
- 6 Confidence, faith (5)
- 10 Father of Jacob, Esau (7)
- 11 Horse headquarters (5)
- 12 Make amends (5)
- 13 Czech-born tennis player (5)
- 14 Supply to satisfaction (7)
- 15 Press for influence (5)
- 16 Make amends (5)
- 17 Czech-born tennis player (5)
- 19 Demonstrate (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1435

ACROSS: 1 Plucky 4 Dallon 9 Interne 10 Croft 11 Menu 12 Tunic 14 Goddard 18 Surreal 19 Tact 22 Armad 24 Surfer 25 Lance 26 Warren

DOWN: 1 Paul 2 Urnie 3 Kerfuffle 5 ABC 6 Trounce 7 Notice 8 Fearless 11 Mng 13 Tractoria 15 Chairman 16 Nkr 17 Assail 20 Chair 21 Dean 23 Dec

## Raising steam

Will the puff of smoke be seen once more along British Rail's tracks?

The axe wielded by Dr Richard Beeching in 1965 closed 700 of Britain's railway stations, superannuated 2,000 miles of track and earned him a life peerage. From those whose communities had been cut off, and from millions of train enthusiasts, it also gave him a permanent place in the halls of infamy.

It seemed at the time that the Beeching cuts were an irreversible *fait accompli*. But were they?

The recommendations of a feasibility study conducted last month into a proposal by the privately owned North Yorkshire Moors Railway to extend its service to the coastal town of Whitby are due before Christmas. If they are in favour, it will be the moment of triumph for the conservationists have awaited.

The 18 miles of beautiful track between Pickering and the village of Grosmont, now operated by the NYMR steam trains, were among those closed under the 1965 axe. Last year the company, which employs 32 full-time staff and scores of volunteer enthusiasts, achieved a turnover of more than £1 million.

At Grosmont, the private line joins the British Rail service from Middlesbrough to Whitby. And that is why a "yes" verdict would be historic. If the NYMR pushes its own way into Whitby, not only would steam locomotives once again be operating a daily scheduled service within the BR network — for six months a year — but it would also be the first time that BR has ever shared one of its routes with a private company.

Brian Horner, the 53-year-old chairman of the trust which maintains 21 steam locos on the line, is understandably cautious. "I know that public, and particularly local, opinion wants us to do it, but it has got to be right. After all these years of hard work I will not be responsible

for over-stretching ourselves to the point of ruining everything the railway has built up."

His fears are based in part on the enormous costs of bringing at least eight steam locos and 40 coaches up to BR operational standards, and footing the bill for extra signalling and track modification over the seven additional miles.

The two options before the feasibility study group — to let the steam trains use the same track as BR or lay another one alongside — both have snags. Although bridges and tunnels are wide enough for the latter — the line was originally double-tracked — considerable

strengthening would be needed and the present track would have to be realigned in several places where it has been "skewed" to soften the curves. If only one track is used, complex time-scheduling would be needed, as well as the provision of passing places.

British Rail's attitude is by no means obstructive. But Brian Heap, a director of Freeman Fox, the London-based consultant engineers carrying out the study, points out: "If they make money out of this relationship they will be for it, and if they stand to lose money they will be against it. They are not in the charity business."

Whatever the outcome of the study, the NYMR has already proved that nostalgia can pay. Its existing line between Pickering and Grosmont — passing through Goathland and under the surrealistic shadow of the Fylingdales early-warning defence establishment — runs at a profit.

The coming weeks will decide whether it is also destined to write a new chapter in modern railway history.

Charles Marshall  
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## FRIDAY PAGE

## Where do we get our values now?

Since I never saw the video *How to Become a Lesbian in 35 Minutes*, I can't be sure just how frightful it was. But I'm fairly certain that I would not have chosen to show this film, made by Haringey's Lesbian and Gay Development Unit, to an audience of mentally handicapped girls, as Haringey Council did. On the other hand, I did skim the book *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin*, which ILEA promoted. One of its photographs showed little five-year-old Jenny having breakfast in bed with her dad and his male lover. If you saw it, you may have noticed how particularly handsome the two men are, with their shaggy dark hair, well-cut pectoral muscles and no pyjamas. Funny, in a way, I mean, if it had been a picture of a man and a woman, it would have been a picture of a couple.

By now a certain weariness sets in when cataloguing loony-left activities. They are almost universally regarded with distaste, which is why the Labour Party supported the Tory Bill forbidding local authorities to spend money promoting homosexuality. All the same,

some of us did feel uneasy at Mrs Thatcher's legislation values the schools should teach. If this government can outlaw the promotion of homosexuality, could another one of different complexion outlaw heterosexuality, and so on? That's a remote possibility, of course, but one ought not to make laws for Socratic times but rather for those periods when we suffer the most wretched of governments.

Some of us also have a dislike of governments legislating opinions — even if they are the ones with which we agree. "I think power has gone to her head," said the caller to the phone-in show on Capital Radio, and I felt my head give a little nod in turn. But, after mulling it over, I disagreed with the caller. I think Mrs Thatcher has found a way to cut a Gordian knot that has been strangling this society for a generation.

Over the past 25 years, the hard left has been cleverly ferreting out where the buttons of real influence are located and, so far as they could, crowding around them. Unsurprisingly, they targeted local government, the education authorities, broadcasting, even the Church, and

having infested them, they naturally proceeded to push the buttons. Hence the attacks on the family and the values of liberal democracy.

There were only two ways of fighting back. One was to try to oppose the loonies, but on the whole this wasn't successful. They and their appointees were too entrenched and when it came to local government politics, the hard left simply was better organized.

Mrs Thatcher's brilliance was to circumvent hard-left infestation by simply disconnecting the buttons they controlled, through such things as the proposed poll tax, the Bill outlawing homosexual propaganda, and the Education Act's clause allowing parents to opt out of local authority control. Push the button now — and nothing happens.



BARBARA AMIEL

Still, Mrs Thatcher sensed a limit to her back on track, morally speaking.

That is why she recently scolded the Church of England for abandoning its moral duties. Her scolding was pretty much echoed by my High Anglican friend in Bishop's Stortford, to whose daughter I am a heathen god-mother. "Where do we get our values now that the Church has given up moral leadership?" she grumbled. My answer wasn't very inspiring.

but I think the problem is that Mrs Thatcher and my friend are wrong on this one. The Church hasn't abandoned moral leadership at all. It is just exerting it in a direction with which some of us disagree. Morality, after all, is simply a system of ethics and beliefs and, I suppose, technically a hedonist is a moralist.

In view of the apparent suicide of Dr Gareth Bennett, it seems like a raw moment to discuss the Church of England. All the same, its pronouncements seem to me to show a loony-infestation problem. I'm sure there have always been homosexual clergy in the Church and so long as they were discreet and hardworking they were tolerated. What is different about today's Church is that it now calls not simply for charity for the sinner but charity for the sin.

Put this together with the Church's fixation with unilateral disarmament, its openly Marxist analysis of inner-city problems, and its new relaxed approach to divorce (summed up by Dr Runcie's remarkable ability to reconcile his belief in the "highest doctrine of marriage as a permanent and lifelong relationship" with the Church's "confident generosity" to those who divorced anyway) and you have the contemporary wet Church. The only way to get those fingers off the button, one feels, is disestablishment, which would remove the official imprimatur from the moral pronouncements of a Church that seems

to spend a great deal of time making God relevant to the world rather than the other way around.

But with neither state nor Church any longer the source of our moral instruction, where do we go? Well, education used to give pupils some instruction in values, through history and literature. We learnt that generosity was good and treachery bad from the heroes and villains we met in the common experience and myths of our culture. That remains. We can't arrive at a complete consensus, of course, but moral consensus is not always desirable. A free society can't do away with moral dilemmas.

What our society could best do away with are school classes in "values"; better immerse pupils in the culture as it exists in our traditions. Meanwhile, let parents retain the prime authority, and if it happens that their views coincide with those of the loony left, let them imbue their children with them. It surely is their right, and even Mrs Thatcher would balk at stamping out freedom in order to make people agree with her. She's disconnected the buttons. There's no need to turn off the electricity as well.



Still in a dancing daze: Sheila Falconer, finding the separation from her husband hard, but loving her work

## How to manage a transatlantic marriage

Most people, says Sheila Falconer, appreciate that a man's identity lies in his work, but few seem to appreciate that a woman's might also. "But I've worked since I was 16. I seem to lose a bit of myself if I'm not working," she says and indeed it is in pursuit of her career that she finds herself with a lifestyle that others do not hesitate to call odd.

Falconer is a choreographer, currently working on the Royal Shakespeare Company production of *The Wizard of Oz*, a labour of love which she describes as "the treat of all treats".

It needs to be. If she were not so deeply involved with Dorothy and the Tin Man and the Munchkins, she would be far away in the sunshine and luxury of Beverly Hills, with her husband, Patrick Stewart, who has recently settled there, playing the Captain of the Enterprise in the "New Generation" version of *Star Trek*, with her 20-year-old son Dan. On the other hand, she would then be away from her daughter Sophie, 14, who is at school here, and of course her career. You see the dilemma.

Not that she sees the problems of managing a transatlantic family as much of a dilemma herself. "There's no alternative at the moment," she says, nibbling at the morsels of fruit that seem to pass for her lunch. "My contract here was lined up long before Patrick got *Star Trek*. It's achingly awful. And if I were doing a trashy work, which I thank God I'm not, I would be deeply miserable."

Until a Paramount person decided Patrick should captain the Enterprise, they led a fairly conventional theatrical

When the pursuit of your career necessitates separation from your husband — and son — is that pursuit really worthwhile?

life and marriage. "I think we both suffered three dark nights of the soul wondering if it was the right thing to do. But it intrigued him, the script was good and Paramount have been so terrific to him."

Their son Dan is attending college in California, studying drama, hence the decision that he should stay with his father. "But Sophie is at a marvellous school here and is deeply happy, and I think it would be wrong to move her. For the foreseeable future I'll be based here. I'll go over and do Christmas, but then after that I have to come back and do *Bitter Sweet* at Sadler's Wells. We shall have a long holiday together for Easter," she says. "People do think it's odd, especially the ones out there, they can't think why I don't want to throw everything in and join Patrick."

She has been a choreographer for about as long as she has known her husband; before that she was a dancer, first quite the background you would expect for running the Enterprise, but he is loving it. And, as he is earning "the sort of money he's never earned before, after all these years of slogging away," they find themselves, when they are together, cast into Hollywood-style life. With a swimming pool — that sort of thing? "You'd better believe it."

She has a great affinity with the Barbican with her arms, in *Henry IV*. He spoke the very first words here. Not quite the background you would expect for running the Enterprise, but he is loving it.

And, as he is earning "the sort of money he's never earned before, after all these years of slogging away," they find themselves, when they are together, cast into Hollywood-style life. With a swimming pool — that sort of thing? "You'd better believe it."

Did she find that they were on different wavelengths when they did get together again? "No, that was much more the case when I was just a mum and Patrick was working at Stratford and in London. This way we can share our experiences and immediately engage at that level," she says. "Sophie knows that every spare minute I'm not working we'll be over there, she realizes we chose each other first."

They survive by "taking it a day at a time. We talk on the phone every day. And we're very secure in our love. It's so sustaining. And that's what gets me through the days, really."

The lunch break was over and she had to go and join Dorothy and the Tin Man and the Munchkins. Over the Rainbow, and all that. Where troubles melt like lemon drops...

Penny Vincenzi

If you suspected the abuse of a child, would you have the courage to intervene?

The report of the independent inquiry, chaired by Lord Blom-Cooper, into the Kimberley Carile case will be published today. It will probably focus on the shortcomings of the social agencies involved. But what about the people who are well placed to see the bruises and hear the screams of abused children? Why are neighbours, who invariably express so much horror after the event, so reluctant to complain at the time?

Part of the answer may lie in what psychologists call "the bystander approach". One example of this is the reaction of the man on the crowded beach who sees a swimmer in difficulty: he looks around, sees that no one else is responding, and assumes that he is mistaken.

Dr Guy Cumberbatch, a psychologist at Aston University, suggests that if the man was the only person on that beach, "he would realize that it was his responsibility to save the drowning man. In cities where large numbers of people are living together, there tends to be an attitude that someone else will deal with any problems."

On the surface, the non-intervention of neighbours in Kimberley's case seems extraordinary. She was living in a square of low-rise housing which forms part of an enormous estate in Kidbrooke, south-east London. As you

## Neighbours, not merely bystanders

walk through, you can hear a dog bark or a baby cry on the other side of the square. Most of Kimberley's neighbours are still there, although the woman who tried to raise the alarm with social workers, Mrs Camilla Bacon, has moved on. The other neighbours on the estate say that they did not know that Kimberley existed.

Mrs Jean Idle, who lives upstairs, says that she had noticed Pauline Carile sitting in the garden with three children. "I saw she was pregnant with what I thought was her fourth child, and I wondered how she would manage. I had no idea that she actually had four children then and was expecting her fifth."

Neighbours can't understand how they failed to hear Kimberley's screams. They guess that she must either have been too weak, or too terrified to cry out. Even if neighbours are pre-

pared to intervene, they have a very natural fear of making fools of themselves if their suspicions are unjustified. "There is an ambiguity about the situation from the neighbours' point of view," Dr Cumberbatch says. "Are those real screams, or noise from a horror film? If you don't know the neighbour well enough to ask, then you will assume it is the film."

He believes that the boundary between being a good, caring neighbour and a bad, interfering neighbour is very fine.

The social agencies certainly think that the public has an important role to play. Jim McHugh of the British Association of Social Workers says: "Surely while we have a statutory obligation, neighbours also have obligations as citizens."

But sometimes when complaints are made, after a good deal of soul-searching, they

are ignored. Two-year-old Lucy Gates died from burns in 1979 after being left to sleep on the floor next to an electric fire. The official inquiry into her death found that neighbours and friends had complained continually that Lucy was at risk, and that the mother was incapable of caring for her property. Some of these complaints had been made "in vivid and prophetic terms". The inquiry recommended that a national study should be undertaken as to why, when neighbours report their concerns, the response is inadequate. It didn't happen.

Dr Alan Gilmore, director of the NSPCC, says that the society always has a vast increase in calls from the public whenever a new and horrific case is publicized. He also warns that we should not be misled by the fact that most of the recently publicized cases involved people who relied heavily on the welfare services. "We probably see more child abuse in underprivileged families because these families are already under observation. But you don't hear the screams so easily from a detached house standing in its own ground."

Ann Kent

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The inquiry's report on the life and death of Kimberley Carile will be recreated by a cast of 18 actors in *Dispatches on Channel 4* at 8.15 tonight.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Ken's table manners

Ken Livingstone's latest wheeze is unlikely to have improved his popularity rating in the Commons. Yesterday's order paper was published late, after the former GLC leader took a belated interest in 104 early-day motions — which allow MPs to raise subjects without taking up debating time — going back to July. He signed EDMs on subjects ranging from shorter summer recesses to a motion on the re-unification of Cyprus. With Her Majesty's Stationery Office already struggling with new technology (PHS December 9), the addition of the extra material so swelled the Votes and Proceedings paper that it had to be produced in two parts. It is not unknown for MPs who have been away to sign batches of EDMs — thus necessitating their reprinting — but Livingstone's motive is unclear. Sir Marcus Fox, of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, remarks: "If he thinks this will gain him credibility in Parliament, he couldn't be more wrong."

● The governors' choice for student of the year was absent from this week's degree ceremony at Paisley College of Technology. Alan Osborne sent his apologies: he is at the South Pole but should be back in three years.

### Hugh and cry

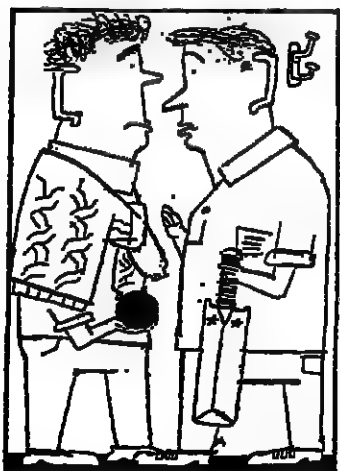
The withdrawal of last week's edition of *Parliament's House Magazine* at the insistence of its consultative editor, Patrick Cormack, may not be the end of the matter. MPs and peers' copies were impounded after Cormack, in my source's words, "went ape" over Hugh Stephenson's review of Peter Jenkins' *Mrs Thatcher's Revolution*. The Tory loyalist told me that Stephenson's account of the Westland affair offended against the magazine's obligation to be impartial: "It was flagrantly partisan and in effect repeated the Tom Dailly allegations." Stephenson, a former *New Statesman* editor and now professor of journalism at City University, was originally surprised but amused when I told him the trouble he had caused. Now he is angry. "I am taking legal advice about suing Cormack for defamation. His remarks are highly damaging to my reputation as an academic," he told me yesterday.

● French academic life is being refilled by the public pursuit of newspaper prizes. With many papers running year-end quizzes and *Le Figaro* continuing a long-running picture quiz on the 1960s, Paris public libraries are complaining that competition addicts are ripping whole pages from encyclopaedias and reference books in search of the answers.

### Sheikh-out

Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the racehorse-owning son of the ruler of Dubai, has — apparently on a whim — cancelled plans to build Britain's biggest country house this century. More palatial by far than the mock-Tudor plans of the Duke and Duchess of York, the £6 million Palladian mansion near Theford in Norfolk was planned for completion last year. But the sheikh, who five years ago bought the Queen's best filly for more than £1.25 million, lost interest almost immediately and only a few stables have since appeared on the estate. John Price of architects Hunter Price and Dexter-Smith admits he is baffled. "We were never given any explanation. The client just turned round on the second day and said he had decided it was not worth building a house that size in Norfolk." The sheikh's office said yesterday: "He has changed his mind."

BARRY FANTONI



### Popping up

My plea (PHS November 27) for the rousing song *Nkosi Sikelela Africa* (the best thing about Sir Richard Attenborough's *Cry Freedom*) to be brought out as a single has been rewarded. MCA Records is releasing it under the title "The Funeral" on January 21 and is donating a portion of the proceeds from each sale to Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa and the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa. My only sadness is that it is too late to challenge Paul McCartney in the Christmas record stakes.

PHS

A Scottish shipyard worker who wanted to join the Labour Party not long ago was interviewed by his local MP. "Are you a Trotskyist?" he was asked. "No." "A member of Militant Tendency?" "No." "Of the International Marxist Group?" "Never heard of them." "Are you a Revolutionary Socialist?" "No."

"Well in that case what makes you want to join the Labour Party?"

It was not just policies which lost Labour the last election. Shadow ministers confess freely now that as much as anything it was image, the distractions provided by the so-called "loony left" and a popular picture of a party under the union thumb.

Labour's inquest into the election defeat has so far concentrated on the all-embracing policy review. Policies which do not pass the test of public acceptability. Neil Kinnock has indicated, will be jettisoned. But just as important as changing those policies is the question of changing the party's image.

And there, the events of last weekend confirmed, Labour has already taken the crucial decision. Even though it was sensitive enough on the question of union domination to keep union leaders under wraps through the whole of the general election it has now decided to become not less of a trade union party but more so.

Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, was quite explicit last Saturday at the "Beating the Blues" conference called to set off the policy review. Labour, he said, "must continue to be a trade union-based party". The constitutional links with the union movement were vital and would not be abolished or changed. Gordon Brown, one of the key thinkers in the Shadow Cabinet, insisted that in seeking to turn Labour into a mass membership party the base must be the near 10 million members of Britain's trade unions.

It is a decision of profound importance. And on the face of it, failing to loosen the union strings looks like a high-risk strategy.

## How Labour should live with the unions

by Robin Oakley  
—Political Editor—

Not only is trade union membership falling but the proportion of unionists voting Labour has also been in decline. Polls have shown that 35 per cent of those who had once been Labour supporters did not vote Labour in June because they said the party was controlled too much by the unions.

It is the fear of the unions and their leaders which has landed Labour with the unwieldy and probably unworkable system of local electoral colleges for the selection and reselection of Labour MPs.

Given that Labour's crucial task is fashioning a party to its return, it seems strange to signal that the union bosses who resisted one man-one vote and alienated the SDP defectors in the first place will continue to have a big hand in running the party. So long as Labour relies on the unions for 90 per cent of its income it will continue to be caricatured as the creature of the unions.

As much as anything else, disenchantment with the public services stems from a feeling that they are run for the convenience of the public sector unions. In an age when even Labour is talking about choice and individuality the old-style union organization looks to many workers more like a threat than a benefit.

But there are counter arguments. While total union membership is falling, the proportion of union members among those at work has not fallen as far. Union membership is now much more reflective of the social profile of the country as a whole. The continental socialist parties who are doing much better than Labour in electoral terms have close union links and far bigger individual memberships than Labour. The unions there have become a force for modernization and the pursuit of excellence rather than the defence of dying industries. They are not in retreat but have begun to flourish again by concentrating on quality-of-life issues.

The value of the union connection to Labour is that it provides solidarity and practicality. It is the counterbalance needed to the constituency party zealots who would otherwise turn Labour into a "vanguardist" party run by and for the activists. NUPE's Tom Sawyer, one of the architects of the new Labour Party, put it succinctly at last weekend's Fabian conference: "Out of Ireland, out of Nato and out of office won't please my members."

One of Labour's failures in the June election was on taxation policy, and it was TUEF (the Trade Unions for Labour Organisation) which kept nagging the campaign committee, eventually, not to frighten off the moderately prosperous voters on that front.

The truth is that Labour probably has little option but to go the union route. To offer a message

distinctive from that of the Tories it has decided to remain the party of collectivist provision. It needs a mass membership both to counter the effect of a largely hostile press and to swamp the activists who would otherwise distract attention from its message. A membership of less than 300,000 for a party which attracted ten million votes is pathetic. But unless Labour wins the next election, or comes close to winning, it will move into what would be terminal decline.

The only way to build a mass party in time is to begin enlisting as individual party members the 6-7 million trade unionists who pay the political levy, which is largely used to sustain the Labour Party, even if all are not activists.

The West German Social Democrats have nearly a million party members; so do the Swedish Socialists, out of a population of only 8 million. There is no reason why Labour too cannot become a mass party. It requires only the risk of reducing its individual subscription (currently £10.60 a year) to the level of the average union levy and allowing the unions to recruit members directly into the Labour party at their workplaces. And that is a risk which Shadow ministers and party bureaucrats are now close to accepting.

It could prove the crucial factor in the attempt to make Labour more responsive to ordinary voters and less to the activists who have cost it so dear. But there are risks. The first is that the unions themselves fail to modernize and become a drag anchor on reshaping Labour's policies or else fall out of the current pattern of centre/right domination. The other is that embracing the union-link maximizes Labour's hold on its traditional vote but actually hinders further advance, inducing a feeling in possible voters from other parties that "Labour is for the unions, not for me". It could be driven back into its northern fortress rather than winning new votes in the prosperous south. But any party as close to penury as Labour now is does not have that much choice.

## Post-summer pitfalls



Francois Heisbourg sees a danger of the INF treaty leading to further agreements that would undermine Western security — and urges the European partners to reforge their Nato commitment

reduced at a faster rate than non-nuclear forces. Nor, in devising formulas for reductions, should there be any question of moral equivalence between allied forces in Western Europe and Soviet forces stationed in Eastern Europe. There is no known Soviet justification for stationing forces in Czechoslovakia other than the Prague Spring of 1968.

Purely symbolic reductions are also best avoided: they will only create the kind of illusions which make adequate defence more difficult without remedying the existing imbalances. If real savings are to be made — and the Soviets possibly want this for the sake of their economic reform programme — and if asymmetries are to be corrected, then Soviet force cuts of more than 20 per cent are in order.

It is important that conventional arms reductions be conducted under an overarching concept: e.g. equal ceilings of comparable forces. There is no reason why the Warsaw Pact should have a recognized right to array a larger quantity of defence materiel and military units than the Western Alliance.

Finally, the limits of what conventional disarmament can achieve must be kept in mind. A conventional balance is better than a conventional imbalance, but history, as recently as 1940 and 1941, has shown that there is no such thing as a stable conventional balance in Europe. Nuclear deterrence in the framework of strategic coupling between the US and Europe and the promotion of East-West co-operation will remain better instruments for securing stability than will any kind of hypothetical conventional stand-off in a de-nuclearized Europe.

The final, and most risky, area for likely further negotiation is short-range nuclear forces. If there are to be reductions here, two pitfalls must be avoided. One is the so-called "third zero" and its

possible successor, the "fourth zero" — the complete elimination of all US short-range nuclear forces, including tactical nuclear artillery and dual capable aircraft. This would not only pose extraordinary tricky verification problems, but would lead to the possible creation of an area with special status in Central Europe. It could also favour the concentration of conventional forces which today are scattered to avoid the possibility of nuclear retaliation.

It is doubtful whether flexible response and forward defence would be sustainable if these nuclear weapons were completely removed. In particular the removal of tactical nuclear weapons could lead to the departure of the US forces which they are supposed to protect — "no nukes, no troops".

The second pitfall would be to link the reduction or elimination of short-range nuclear weapons to the elimination or reduction of major categories of conventional materiel or force units. It may be tempting to negotiate the withdrawal of entire Soviet tank armies against the elimination of Nato's Lance battlegroup missiles, for example. The risk here really is that of the "slippery slope". If the logic is accepted once, it may have to be accepted twice, leading eventually to the de-nuclearization of Europe and the establishment of a purely conventional face-off between the two alliances.

In the present economic climate, particularly that in the US, and in the wake of the INF agreement, it will be extremely difficult to convince taxpayers to increase defence spending. All alliance countries will therefore be taking a closer look at "better" defence rather than "more" defence. Most important, from a strategic viewpoint, the handling of possible American force reductions in Europe will test the Alliance's capability for managing change without breaking up in the

process. Limited American force reductions can be managed, but they will entail a high degree of mutual consultation and comprehension, as well as a meeting of minds between the French and their integrated allies.

Two initiatives need to be taken if this period of change is to be managed successfully. First, it is time for the Atlantic Alliance to mount a thorough review of its overall strategy in theory and in practice, something like the Harmel report compiled almost 20 years ago. The body entrusted with it could be led by a "wise man" during the latter half of 1988. The prospective document should look both at doctrinal issues and at broader security and foreign policy aspects: the deterrence cum flexible response cum forward defence cum detente emphases of the Harmel report gives an indication of the necessary scope.

During the first half of 1989 a debate would be conducted by members of the Atlantic Alliance with the active participation of the new US administration and the new French government. Such a review may be one of the few ways to prevent an uncoordinated, reactive, divided approach to whatever initiatives may be thrown at our governments and our public opinion by a creative and competent leadership in the Soviet Union.

The second set of measures should be taken concurrently: the Europeans should continue to build up the so-called European pillar within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance. Signals must not be sent to Washington which could hasten decoupling and create needless transatlantic tensions. At the same time, however, the American public and the US Congress seem to have greater appreciation for a Europe which is seen to be pulling its own weight than for Europeans who appear to be reaching helter-skelter to whatever initiatives they are faced with by either of the superpowers.

It should be possible to establish specifically European forms of action which would reinforce the Alliance. Strengthening Europe does not necessarily entail weakening the Atlantic Alliance: just the opposite.

The author is director of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London. This is an edited version of a paper given at the Royal Institute of International Affairs earlier this month.

John Rae

## Liberals under a false label

The word "liberal" has become a term of abuse in contemporary Britain. Its reputation has been declining for many years and it is now often used without explanation to indicate not a virtue but a vice. The decline will continue unless we take steps to rescue it. The damage was done partly by licence masquerading as liberalism in the Sixties and partly over a longer period by the hypocrisy of the liberal elitists.

Liberal elitism does not refer to membership of a political party. There have been liberal elitists in all political parties and in none. This peculiarly English figure, so well disposed to those less fortunate than himself, so resolute in defence of his own privileges, has flourished since the turn of the century and only in recent years has appeared to be in danger of extinction.

He was educated at one of the better known public schools and at Oxford or Cambridge, where he read classics or history or some other civilizing course. Because he regarded himself as superior to his fellow countrymen, in intelligence and in breeding, he believed it was right, indeed his duty, to tell them how they should conduct their lives. From his elite position — in Parliament, in the church, in the ivory tower — he preached liberal sentiments, but seldom had to live with the consequences of the policies he advocated.

The harm done to the concept of liberalism by these elitists can be illustrated by an event in the early 1970s. A large number of Asians were expelled from East Africa. The government of the day decided that they must be allowed to settle in Britain. It was a perfect opportunity for the liberal elitists to tell their fellow countrymen how to behave.

A liberal elitist in the Cabinet said he was sure that the British people would welcome the Asians with their traditional tolerance. Other liberal elitists invited Asian families to stay for a week or two in their episcopal palaces as an example to their less well-educated fellow countrymen.

These liberal elitist gestures did more harm than good. The British people resented being told to be tolerant by a man who would probably not come into contact with a coloured immigrant from one year to the next. He could retreat to the all-white exclusiveness of his St James's club or to his remote country estate, while other people had to practice the tolerance he had foisted upon them.

Nor were the British people impressed by the painless episcopal gestures because it was not the elite who would have to live with the problems of race relations when the Asian guests departed for less gracious surroundings. It was difficult enough for society to accept an unexpected influx of immigrants without adding the

resentment caused by the sanctimonious hypocrisy of the liberal elitists.

On this and many other occasions the public pronouncements and painless gestures of the liberal elitist helped to fix in the popular mind the idea that a liberal was an upper class twit with his heart on his sleeve and his stomach replete with roast pheasant.

The damage done to the word liberal in the Sixties was of a different kind. In those heady days, liberal was the label that every trimmer in office wished to acquire. To be a liberal vice-chancellor, headmaster or chief constable was to be in tune with the times. Liberal became associated with permissiveness and with the shallowness of conviction necessary to adapt to every new trend.

Hypocritical, arrogant, permissive, shallow — none of these would have been accepted as a definition of liberal a hundred, even fifty years ago. But the false definitions are so widely accepted that it is difficult to remember what the true definition is. Fortunately, the *Oxford English Dictionary* is there to remind us. To be liberal is to be "free from narrow prejudice; open minded; open to the reception of new ideas or proposals for reform". In political opinions liberal means "favourable to changes and reform tending in the direction of democracy".

The key to true liberalism is the open mind. That does not mean a mind blown this way and that by fashion; or a mind that is so open it has no firm convictions at all. The liberal makes up his own mind on the evidence, free from narrow prejudice and from fear of unpopularity. In this sense his opinions are predictable. The idea that his liberalism predisposes him to embrace so-called progressive attitudes is another illustration of the way the word liberal has been hijacked, in this case, by the trendy left.

In fact it is quite possible to be liberal and in favour of fox hunting, capital punishment and the nuclear deterrent. What being a liberal does predispose him to do is to defend and strengthen democracy. So he would, for example, oppose attempts to restrict freedom of speech from whichever part of the political spectrum they came.

Not everyone will accept that this is a sufficient definition of the word liberal. But I hope most would agree that the word is urgently in need of rescuing from all the inaccurate overtones it has acquired in recent years. It is time liberal ceased to be a term of abuse.

The author, director of the Laura Ashley Foundation, was formerly headmaster of Westminster School.

however... Henry Stanhope

## In steppe with the Joneses

I am on holiday in Powys, where I am relieved to find that news of the Washington summit has been greeted with composure. Mid-Wales has accepted the dawn of a new era in relations between the superpowers with equanimity.

The train was late as usual coming down, due (it was said) to a derailment on the carriage siding outside Euston, a points failure at Wolverhampton and the exigencies of the single-track line from Shrewsbury. (Waiting in the loop at Westbury for the up-train from Welshpool, a silver birch tree etched against the sky on a winter's afternoon, induces a rare sense of timelessness.)

This was on that historic day when the General Secretary of the Soviet Union arrived at RAF Brize Norton to meet our own General Secretary, Mrs Thatcher. But conversation on the train was more of jaw-jaw than war-war. A man from Aberystwyth who was returning from a trip to see the lights was talking of the breakfast he had eaten in his hotel: "Five kinds of cereal, grapefruit or stewed pears, followed by sausages, bacon, eggs, tomatoes, fried bread and sautéed potatoes, plenty of toast and marmalade." "Duh, it was wonderful," he said.

People around here have been used to eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the Russians since someone pointed out many years ago that there was nothing between the nearby Breidden Hill and the Ural mountains — which would no doubt be just visible to the sharper eyed among us if only the earth were flat. I have sometimes wondered whether people in the Ural mountains point out to their children that there is nothing between them and the Breidden. I doubt it somehow — but it's a nice thought anyway.

As for Mr Gorbachev, it is quite clear that his name is derived from the Welsh *car bach* which means little choir. Whether this refers to the stature of the choir or its numerical strength is uncertain — but the concept either way is close to the heart of the principality.

My grandmother, who always considered Lloyd George a dangerous revolutionary, would never have approved of détente. None the less, Mr Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost* has found further common cause in rural Wales, where "transparency" is a fact of life whether one likes it or not. A group of hippies several years

ago set up a flourishing drugs factory in a lonely farmhouse not far from here, perhaps in response to some official call or other to establish cottage industries and rejuvenate the rural economy. No doubt they decided to bury themselves deep in the Welsh countryside in the belief that they would avoid attracting too much public attention.

I could have told them, had they asked me, that the last place anyone should go to if he wants to avoid attracting public notice is rural Wales, where news travels at a speed beyond the wildest dreams of the late Paul Julius Reuter.

A man with a beard and a girl wearing trainers, or vice-versa as the case may be, would stand out among the moorlands of central Wales much as the sight of Great Uncle Bulgaria striding through Oxford Circus in the rush hour.

At one time I thought that *glasnost* was a Cardiganshire village — and for all I know it is. Again, it is clearly derived from the Welsh words *glas nos* (blue night) which is a further indication of the heritage shared, by say, mid-Wales and Moscow.

If the Russians ever feel under threat from the Welsh, I should point out that the people in this locality have felt under threat themselves ever since a bomb carelessly mislaid by the Luftwaffe fell into a field six miles away in 1940, narrowly missing a sheep belonging to Mr Jones, Ty-coch. Even as I write, the RAF are playing "chicken" among the chimney pots, to remind the Williamses, the Davieses, the Evanses, Thomases and Mrs Gmffre-Pritchard of their obligations to Western defence.

My memories of Welsh defence include a dim recollection of the local Home Guard on parade in the Second World War when the CO wore his forage cap back to front — and of exercises in the allotments when the old and bold from this wonderful country sniped at each other through the bean sticks and behind the crumbling potting sheds of their forefathers, in defence of the realm and their heritage.

With the removal of intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) from the face of the earth, they could now once more come into their own. This is why we are all inclined here to view the future security of the principality with confidence.





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## THE JOURNALIST'S WORD

Yesterday, the Law Lords ruled that a journalist's legal right to protect his sources comes second to the responsibility of the police to catch criminals. That, at least, is the effect of their unanimous judgment that Mr Jeremy Warner should identify the person or persons who divulged information to him about "insider dealing" in two City takeovers. The High Court must now decide whether to fine Mr Warner or send him to prison if he still refuses to name names.

This order of priority — catch criminals first, protect sources second — is not, in itself, exceptional. Mr Warner is deemed to possess information which, if it were known to Department of Trade and Industry inspectors, and in turn to the police, could enable them to clear up a serious criminal case. At the time of Mr Warner's reports — the first of which appeared in *The Times*, the second in *The Independent* — the whole question of crime in the City was arousing acute public concern. Mr Warner, it could be argued — and was so argued in the Law Lords' judgment — was obstructing the course of law.

Yet the integrity of journalists, too, is protected by law. Under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, a journalist is not obliged to disclose his sources unless the court is satisfied that disclosure is necessary "in the interests of justice, or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime". The rationale behind the principle that journalists do not divulge their sources is simple: if they do, people will not talk to them and evil which should be exposed will go undetected. The bargain by which journalists obtain their information is simple: the information is given in exchange for non-disclosure. The moment names become known, a trust has been betrayed and the bargain broken.

Here, there is a clear conflict between the interests of the journalist and those of the authorities — even though their ultimate objective, the exposure of crime with a view to its prevention in future, may well be the same. Without the initial information, the crime, would not come to light in the first place; unless they know the source of the information,

however, the authorities may find it difficult to apprehend the culprit.

In their judgment yesterday, the Law Lords said they had satisfied themselves that disclosure was necessary to combat "the whole dishonest web" of suspected insider-dealing. Mr Warner's evidence, they said, was "really needed" by the DTI inspectors to investigate a multi-million pound dealing ring.

Only Lord Oliver represented the concerns of journalists when he admitted to initial misgivings about the case. He indicated that the case should not be seen as giving *carte blanche* to the courts to force disclosure. It should not be thought, he said, that the journalist's statutory protection could be overcome merely by the authorities swearing an affidavit to the effect that a particular piece of information was required for the prevention of crime.

If Lord Oliver's strictures are taken seriously, and it is to be hoped that they will be, then the case of Mr Warner cannot in itself be regarded as a precedent which renders the Contempt of Court Act as it applies to journalists invalid, even though that is how it will be widely interpreted. It appears that the Law Lords satisfied themselves that, without knowing Mr Warner's sources, a criminal would not be brought to justice and the courts would be neglecting their duty to uphold the law. In future cases, it must be hoped, other evidence will be obtainable which will render the disclosure of sources unnecessary. Certainly, it must be open to journalists to argue this in future.

For the time being, however, the strength of a journalist's commitment not to disclose his sources and the quality of protection afforded to him by the law have undoubtedly been diminished. So long as the "need" for the information remains a matter of judicial judgement, the journalist will be in doubt as to the extent of the confidentiality he can guarantee to his source. The result will be a regrettable lessening of the campaigning journalist's ability to ferret out the truth. And crimes will flourish unrevealed.

## A SECOND-CLASS SETTLEMENT

No amount of legal argument or sophisticated explanation will quiet the anger which has been aroused by the proposed terms for the settlement of the Open drug case in Britain. Eli Lilly, the American manufacturer of the anti-arthritis drug which is accused of having produced so many serious side-effects, is apparently offering to 1,200 alleged British victims a total sum of £2.5 million. This contrasts with gigantic sums which have been paid out to American claimants, including, in one case, \$6 million.

Are not the British being treated as second-class citizens, and that by a company which no doubt derives enormous profits from its sales here? What can be said with certainty is that Eli Lilly has been alert to exploit every defect in English legal arrangements to their advantage. This is legally but not morally justifiable, nor is it first-class public relations. However, human nature being what it is, moral indignation is not enough. A more profitable line of enquiry is to ask what it is about our legal system, contrasted with that of the United States, which makes this grotesque disparity of treatment possible.

In the United States, damages in such cases are settled by warm-hearted (sometimes extravagantly over-generous) juries, while in Britain they are settled by judges obliged to apply, rationally and fairly, established principles of compensation. Whether, on the whole, the American system conduces to justice is debatable. Newspapers, which have experience of the kind of damages fixed by juries in libel cases in this country, may be disposed to question whether it does.

An even more important difference is that in the United States the principle of strict liability prevails in cases like that of Open. That means that all the plaintiff has to prove is that the damage he has suffered was caused by the drug he has taken. In Britain, he has also to prove that the manufacturers of the drug were

guilty of negligence — a necessity that opens the way for the kind of complex and protracted litigation on which plaintiffs, particularly when they are old and frail, can be easily dissuaded from embarking.

In this respect, the law now applying here is soon to be changed; it will approximate more closely to strict liability. In the opinion of many experts, however, it will still fall short of that target — a target, incidentally, set by the EEC. This is a matter to which Parliament should surely direct its attention.

The most serious of the reasons why plaintiffs in this kind of case do so much better if they happen to be American rather than British probably concerns the method by which American litigation is financed. In the USA, the institution of the "contingency fee" puts costly legal actions within the reach of the poor. Under this system, lawyers are free to undertake themselves the entire legal costs of a case and, in return for so doing, to agree with their clients to take a specified proportion of the loot should the case succeed. By this means the dwarf can attack the giant.

The complex and inadequate system of legal aid which prevails here is virtually useless against powerful defendants like Eli Lilly — a fact pathetically illustrated by the miserable deal which British plaintiffs are being offered. The case for reforming legal aid is urgent.

One proposal which deserves sympathetic scrutiny comes from Mr Roger Pannone, who has represented British plaintiffs in their negotiations. He has called for a government-financed disaster fund which could supply the money for the establishment of liability in cases where large numbers of people claim to have been injured but manifestly lack the means to pursue that claim. The Government will not and should not be pardoned if it fails to apply itself now to the lessons of the Open case.

## HONG KONG'S NEW DEMOCRATS

A delegation from Hong Kong left Britain yesterday, frustrated and disappointed after what its nine members regard as a snub from the British Government. During their visit, the only minister who agreed to see them was Lord Glenarthur, the Foreign Office minister responsible for the Crown Colony, and he was prepared to receive only the three members who are also members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council. The delegation found these terms unacceptable and the meeting ended soon after it began.

The Foreign Office argues that the delegation, which was led by Mr Martin Lee QC, represents just one of many strands of opinion in Hong Kong and that ministers cannot receive all comers. Such a view is not unreasonable. But the concern about Mr Lee's delegation relates less to the way its members were treated in London — though, given Hong Kong's special position, the matter could have been more sensitively handled — than to the fact they felt it necessary to come to London at all.

Their view, which they were able to present only informally during their three-day visit, is that Britain and China are quietly arranging for the key question of direct elections to the colony's legislature to be shelved, pending the transfer of sovereignty to China in 1997. They argue that this contravenes an undertaking given by the British Government in 1984 and makes it unlikely that Hong Kong will ever have a democratically elected government. The Foreign Office denies that such an undertaking was ever given.

Mr Lee and his delegation are convinced that a survey of Hong Kong opinion on the subject of direct elections, which followed the publication of a Green Paper last year, was conducted and written up in such a way as to minimize the strength of public support for

elections. They believe that the White Paper on Hong Kong's legislative system, due to be published in February, will conclude — erroneously — that there is no demand in Hong Kong for direct elections in 1988.

At very least, their suspicions deserve to be answered. Since the question of direct elections for Hong Kong was mooted in 1984, the Chinese government has repeatedly made known its disapproval. Hong Kong's present system, whereby members of the colony's two governing councils are appointed, suits China very well. For the past century and a half of British rule, it has also appeared to suit Hong Kong. With sovereignty due to be transferred to China within ten years however, many Hong Kong residents are justifiably concerned that a system of democratic representation should be in place to safeguard their interests.

That prospect now looks distant. As the sequence of Green and White Papers on Hong Kong's legislative process continues within Hong Kong, in consultation with the British Government, China is working on Hong Kong's post-1997 constitution in consultation with a specially constituted committee of "Hong Kong compatriots". The fear of groups like Mr Lee's is that the Chinese-sponsored constitution will be ready first and supersede any plans for direct elections.

As Britain has shed its former colonies, a respectable electoral system is something it has usually tried to leave behind — whatever may happen subsequently. At a time when other countries of the world, with a less developed democratic tradition than ours, seem increasingly interested in having their power endorsed (however questionably) by the ballot box, it is unfortunate that the people of Hong Kong are not being given the same opportunity to cast their vote.

## Wider questions raised by preface

From the Chairman of the Catholic Group in General Synod, Sir, The tragic death of Dr Garth Bennett takes the debate on the priesthood of Crookford's preface into a new arena. I know that many others shared Dr Bennett's concern. Personally, I regretted the attack on the style of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is an irrelevant aside in a closely argued statement.

It needs to be borne in mind that Dr Bennett considered the Archbishop as a friend and was very fond of him. Though sometimes critical, I have never known him to be anything other than affectionate when talking of the Archbishop. The preface needs to be read with this in mind.

The important question has never been "Who wrote the preface?" but "Is its basic premise correct?" Has the Church of England moved rapidly in one direction so that a large number of its loyal members feel alienated? Dr Bennett was a very moderate man, a loyal Anglican and when elected to Synod was not identified with the Catholic Group.

That he rapidly became one of its spokesmen reflects a change in the Church rather than a change in him. His evident unease needs to be set alongside the secessions to Rome of two other similarly moderate leaders, Peter Cornwell and John Tinsley.

There can be no doubt that both Anglican traditionalists and Anglican Catholics feel increasingly marginalised. The hard questions do need to be faced. Where is Anglicanism going and where are the doctrinal standards to be found? Additionally, the Church's unity and life is ill served by a system of appointment which does not secure the nomination of the best from all groups in the Church.

Catholics are as loyal to the Church of England as any other group and as capable of being even-handed. It is a little strange that the largest group among the elected members of the House of Clergy should have the smallest representation in the House of Bishops.

Members of the House of Clergy who have received massive support from the parish clergy know they have the confidence of the Church at large. If they are being excluded from leadership, or overlooked, the sufferer in the long term can only be the Church of England itself. Yours faithfully, JOHN BROADHURST, 21 Michael's Rectory, 39 Bounds Green Road, Wood Green, N22, December 8.

From Mr H. G. Pitt Sir, In his present troubles it might be wise for the Church of England, before it rushes into any changes, to contemplate those shrewd and beautiful words which open the preface to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer:

"It hath been the wisdom of the Church of England, ever since the first compiling of her Public Liturgy, to keep the mean between the two extremes, of too much stiffness in refusing, and of too much easiness in admitting any variation from it. For, as on the one side common experience sheweth, that where a change hath been made of things advisedly established (no evident necessity so requiring) sundry inconveniences have thence ensued; and those many times more and greater than the evils, that were intended to be remedied by such change: So on the

other side, the particular Forms of Divine worship, and the Rites and Ceremonies appointed to be used therein, being things in their own nature indifferent, and alterable, and so acknowledged: it is but reasonable, that upon weighty and important considerations, according to the various exigency of times and seasons, such changes and alterations should be made therein, as to those that are in place of Authority should from time to time seem either necessary or expedient.

What is necessary needs also to be expedient if the Church of England is not to be further diminished.

Yours faithfully, H. G. PITT, Vice Provost, Worcester College, Oxford, December 10.

From the Moderator and the General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council Sir, Unusual as it is for Church leaders today to comment on the internal problems of other Churches, the Free Churches of this country would wish to associate themselves with Cardinal Basil Hume's letter (December 5) concerning the anonymous Crookford's preface.

Relations between the Free Churches and the Church of England are, with the present Archbishop, closer and happier than they have ever been. This is in large measure due to Archbishop Runcie's leadership for which we are all grateful. Yours faithfully, JOHN HANSEN-BERG, Moderator, DAVID STAPLE, General Secretary, The Free Church Federal Council, 27 Tavistock Square, WC1, December 7.

From the Chaplain of The Queen's College, Oxford Sir, Your concern might legitimately differ on whether the late Dr Bennett overstepped the mark in his preface to Crookford's. It should not have happened, however, that so many figures in the forefront of the Church's life, many of whom had not even read the preface, sprung so quickly into attacks upon him.

The matters he raised are not those in response to which the Establishment can afford crude posturing. They deserve instead careful and thorough investigation. There is unfortunately no doubt that Dr Bennett had been deeply wounded by what had been written in the press and said on television, with the result that the Church is now tragically bereft of a good, intelligent and godly servant. There is a lesson here for us all.

Yours etc, P. J. M. SOUTHWELL, The Queen's College, Oxford, December 8.

From Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CH, FRs Sir, May not an anguished layman, distressed to the point of tears by the appalling events of the past few days, implore the archbishops, bishops, priests and laymen who make up the Synod to remember that we are running up to Christmas? May we not hope that they will put an end to their present bickering and allow us to celebrate the nativity of the Prince of Peace in a spirit of unity and brotherly love, remembering what are the fruits of the spirit, and that by our fruits we shall all infallibly be judged? Yours etc, HAILSHAM, House of Lords, December 10.

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## Councils' case against poll tax

From the Chairman of the Association of County Councils Sir, The Secretary of State for the Environment has produced an article on the poll tax (December 4) which must confirm the worst fears of anyone concerned with the future of local government.

Let me deal with just four points. First, it really will not do to argue from the alleged "grotesque orgy" of a handful of councils that the efficient working of the vast majority of others' needs to be impugned.

Second, the argument that it is a national priority to reduce the degree to which the state "intrudes into people's lives" needs to be handled carefully. It is, of course, a form of intrusion to provide well equipped schools rather than stand back and allow the ceilings to fall in. But the latter is hardly an object of public policy, one hopes.

Indeed, the argument that there is a widespread desire that less ought to be spent on essential public services, from rural primary schools to the London Underground system, is not one which carries much conviction with those of us who, as councillors, are day by day at the receiving end of the public's demands.

Third, it is wholly illogical to argue that because the present rating system needs to be improved, on which there is widespread agreement, "ergo" the

community charge". People who do not like catching cold do not necessarily deserve pneumonia. There is nothing in the secretary of state's arguments which alters the inescapable fact that the community charge will transfer financial burdens from the better off to their poorer neighbours.

Finally, what of the argument against the present rating system that it leads to "representation without taxation"? A new constitutional doctrine seems to be being advanced: in order to take a part in representative government, a person has to pay taxes. Is that what democracy is now to mean? Are people who are too poor to pay taxes, locally or nationally, no longer to be regarded as full citizens of this country?

That the secretary of state believes his proposals will lead to "stronger local democracy" is something at which those who have actual experience of local democracy can only marvel.

Yours, JOHN ALLISON, Chairman, Executive Council, Association of County Councils, Eaton House, 66A Eaton Square, SW1, December 4.

## ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 11 1887

On the death of Ferdinand VII of Spain in 1833, his daughter was proclaimed queen instead of the rival claimant to the throne, his brother, Don Carlos. The Carlist War of 1833-40 became a struggle between the ill-led Government troops and their opponents who operated from the mountains in guerrilla fashion.

## [CARLISTS FOILED] PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

MADRID, Dec. 4. I had barely time to inform you by yesterday's post of the courier despatched on the 26th ult. by the French embassy to Paris having been robbed and so severely beaten on the road to Aragon, that he could not pick up his despatches from both embassies, the Spanish Government, and private letters, stored about him, which may have been lost before they were collected by parties sent from the next village (where the courier was dangerously ill), and forwarded to Saragossa and Orléans. Much as this incident is to be regretted, it may serve as a salutary lesson to correct, if possible, the ill-will and slighting pronunciation of the Spanish Government, which, though the Saragossa road is the only way left open for its communications with France, England, and the rest of Europe, so shamefully neglects to protect itself after repeated warnings — namely, a British Ambassadorial courier, of the name of St. Martin, was robbed on the same road before the middle of October by 40 Carlist horsemen of all his despatches to both Embassies and the Spanish Ministry, save one small parcel, which he preserved in the following ingenious manner, worth relating: When first stopped the captain of the troop ordered someone of the men about to conduct him to the barracks (or hollow), where he was then detaining a Portuguese commercial courier going to Paris, captured close by that same night, St. Martin, who was an old hand and well acquainted with the locality, made up his mind instantly what he was to do, to save a small parcel containing Lord Palmerston's private letters to the Ambassador here. Whilst submissively trotting and galloping on with his escort to this Confessionary, or perhaps slaughter-bank, he contrived with great presence of mind to cut his saddle-bag open, and to extract the parcel in question unperceived, which he lost no time in whipping under his waistcoat! So far so good; still the precious despatch was not yet safe. What did he do next? Why, crossing a deep ravine formed of the bed of a dried-up rivulet, he purposely pitched himself head foremost on the ground, pretending to be thrown from his seat by a stumble of the horse, concealed his parcel under a bush, and bellowing about about his injuries he had received by the fall, ventriloquised his horse as seen as consistent with the trick he had performed, and on his arrival at the barracks was cleared of his despatches and other valuables, the commander swearing by the beard and mustaches of Don Carlos that he should be shot if he concealed the smallest scrap of paper, a threat he could well afford to laugh at in his own mind. At last he received a passport to proceed to Madrid, and the Carlists marching in another direction, he returned to the ravine, recovered his parcel at the well-known spot, and arrived safely in the night between the 12th and 14th at Madrid. Mr. Villiers was ill in bed, and passing a sleepless night, and hearing the noise made by the arrival of the courier, he was sadly annoyed to learn the loss of his despatches, but still delighted at the preservation of Lord Palmerston's confidential communications...

## Lyndhurst bypass

From Mr David Scarfe and others Sir, Recent letters on the Lyndhurst bypass (November 26 and 28) show little concern for the 3,000 inhabitants of the "capital" of the New Forest. We have compromised as far as we can. The route now put forward by the verifiers is in the nature of a wrecking amendment, cutting the village in two and slicing through our main recreational area, isolating our cricket pitch and cemetery, and encroaching upon our war memorial with a large roundabout.

A House of Lords select committee concluded, on the basis of all the evidence they had heard, including that of the Official Verifier, that the route proposed by Hampshire County Council "is the right route for the bypass and that the Bill should be allowed to proceed". Their lordships, having considered the arguments of legality and procedure, also concluded that "the county council have acted properly in promoting a Bill for the entire bypass scheme in this case".

Claims by the countryside organisations (November 26) that the council's route will cause environmental damage are viewed with scepticism by villagers who know that it runs almost entirely along land disturbed by the abortive start of a bypass in 1930 and over heathland disturbed by past military training and sand extraction.

We also have evidence that the verifiers' alternative route would do considerable ecological damage. Yours faithfully, DAVID SCARFE (Chairman, Lyndhurst Parish Council), P. A. WYETH (Chairman, Lyndhurst Residents Association), KEITH BARBER, Shalford, Bnk, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, November 29.

## X as in Xmas?

From Dr Lionel Dakers Sir, Once again my wife and I are receiving Christmas cards from those who will persist in signing themselves merely by their Christian names. I wonder how many other readers have to endure this guessing game which I find wears rather thin after a while. To receive a card from John can pose problems when the writing is unfamiliar, the postmark smudged or the stamp unfranked. May I therefore ask to use your columns for expressing our thanks and for reciprocating Christmas greetings to our steadily growing list of unidentified friends? Yours faithfully, LIONEL, Nicholson House, Addington Palace, Croydon, Surrey, December 5.

## Core curriculum

From Mr Michael Alpert Sir, Recent correspondence about the school curriculum makes me recall my days at a boys' grammar school in the late 1940s.

The timetable had 35 periods per week, each of 40 minutes. Games afternoon and one lesson each of PE and religious education took five periods. Of the rest, we had, I remember, five of English, five of French, six of maths, four of a second language (which might be Latin, German or Spanish) or mechanical drawing, three of history, two of geography, three of art and anatomy and two of art or woodwork.

Could we not have been said to have had both a core curriculum and room for extras? We did it all between 9.50 am and 4 pm, with a morning break and an hour for lunch. What is the problem now? Yours faithfully, M. ALPERT, 3 Donaldson Road, NW6, December 1.

## Burdens of age

From Mrs Muriel May Sir, I, too, can testify to the help given by the young of both sexes. I am 83 and walk with a stick, and the times I have had doors opened for me, and help in crossing busy roads, are innumerable.

Many of these willing helpers are young people wearing the much maligned jeans, some of them sporting those curious multi-coloured punk hair styles, and it has taught me not to prejudge them by their mode of dress or freakish hair.

Just one word of criticism. It would be more helpful if shop assistants came and held the door open for me instead of just saying "Mind the step as you go out". More often than not they give me this reminder, and stand watching me almost cut in two as I cope with a loaded shopping bag, a heavy bag, and my trusty stick! Yours sincerely, MURIEL MAY, 2 Burton Close, North Walsham, Norfolk, December 2.

## Far-flung corners

From Mr Cyril Duff Sir, If the Post Office is right (letters, November 30) and Europe stretches from Greenland to the Bering Straits, in the USSR, then I have won an argument with my Portuguese friends but lost it to the Greenlanders.

On the coast of Portugal, west of Lisbon, there is an inscription on a monument claiming the point as the most westerly in Europe. As an Irishman I always point out to the Portuguese that the Dingle Peninsula, in Co. Kerry, is to the west of their country. On these occasions I maintain a discreet silence about Iceland, but now it looks as if I shall have to gloss over Greenland too. Yours faithfully, CYRIL DUFF, 4 Shipworth Road, Eps.







## THE ARTS

## Waffle, Watson

More certainly does not mean better on television. Alas, in *The Case of Sherlock Holmes* (BBC2) more did not even mean much more. This was a 40 Minutes special, so special in fact that it lasted 70 minutes; but its most remarkable achievement was to spend so long telling us so little about such an interesting cultural phenomenon.

A brilliant narrative device contributed to the enormous

## TELEVISION

success of Conan Doyle's stories about the great detective. As H.R.F. Keating points out in his more economically informative article in the *Radio Times*, the use of Watson both enabled Holmes to keep most of his deductions to himself and gave the reader a feeling of intellectual superiority over the narrator.

A less than brilliant narrative device, however, contributed to the limitations of *The Case of Sherlock Holmes* — though it certainly gave the viewer a feeling of intellectual superiority. This was to have Tim Pigott-Smith in the role of a bemused investigator of the case.

Pigott-Smith is an excellent actor who has played both Holmes and Watson. He also has some interesting things to say about both of them (also about the attempt by police to photograph an image of Jack the Ripper on the retina of his victims) — but again these are to be found in the *Radio Times*. In the programme, however, he was lumbered with not only the clichéd accoutrements of gumshoe mac and bolton computer, but with a script of waffling banality which posingly repeated the obvious before promptly being prompted into self-propelled by a Holmes lookalike competition in deprived Liverpool.

The film tried various tactics. As though inspired by a film-school primer on structuralism, it first essayed "deconstruction" with some brio, but little of the measured subtlety of *Bohemian Rhapsody* — the excellent dismantling of the Crusoe myth. Then we were entertained more conventionally by clips and Holmes eccentricities — who cried out for an interventionist feminist such as Alan Whicker, rather than the more passive Pigott-Smith.

Andrew Hislop

## Odd mismatch

## The Cape Orchard Young Vic Studio

The history of South Africa to the year 2005; the vicissitudes of a Cape fruit-and-wine growing concern; the five-year Calvary of a middle-aged, not so successful South African actress in English rears; the saga of an adopted daughter with a white mentality inside a black skin.

If all this sounds like the contents of a high-brow airport blockbuster, that is not quite fair. Michael Pearce's *South African* shows considerable intelligence and a wide speculative vision. But all the same, what results is a curious mismatch of Chekhov and a latter-day South African *Gone With The Wind*.

The Chekhov play in question is, of course, *The Cherry Orchard*. It is 1995 and Leonie de Villiers, a liberal white actress, returns to her farm after five years to find it no longer a going concern. The unchekhovian twists are that the family nanny, Dianne (played with raw, strident aggression by Claire Bene-



view turned out badly. Ruth Rendell and I talked at cross purposes and the photographer, as uncomfortable a presence as a parrot on my shoulder, sneezed and wheezed at the most inopportune moments. Much of what she said never reached me.

It was a shame because those two novels forced me to unravel my prejudice against crime writing, which then I had assumed to be an inferior form of fiction, dependent either on descriptions of violence or on cunning puzzles. Ruth Rendell writes about the ripple-effect of tragedy, going beyond observation of character to understanding. She is one of our most accomplished novelists, adept at the tricks of her trade and inventing new ones.

This week her 26th novel, *Talking To Strange Men*, was published in paperback. A week ago *A Fatal Inversion* won a Gold Dagger from the Crime Writers' Association for the best crime novel of the year. Strictly, it was awarded to Barbara Vine.

With all those novels, and several collections of short stories, since the first Inspector Wexford whodunnit in 1964, Rendell's readers felt they had the measure of her. Wexford and his colleague, Burden, would surely continue to grapple with the murderous population of Kingsmarkham, and alternating with those books would come the suspense stories in which damaged personalities fell headlong to their doom.

But then she became Barbara Vine and began to use a different voice, tell a

### Crime writer Lesley Grant-Adamson quizzes Ruth Rendell about Barbara Vine and Inspector Wexford

different kind of story in a different way. Critics suggest Vine is subtler, less black. Rendell defines the difference like this: "In the suspense stories there's a deliberate violation of the law. The characters do things by accident or are overcome by a dreadful temptation or obsession. The Vine books are less violent and they lack the frightening qualities of the suspense books. I've noticed I use more women in the Vines."

Barbara Vine is a serious challenger to Ruth Rendell. Last year Vine's *A Dark Adapted Eye* was shortlisted for the Gold Dagger award, beaten to it by Ruth Rendell's *Live Flesh*, and went on to win the American equivalent, an Edgar. But Vine has some catching up to do: Rendell's earlier awards include a Gold Dagger for *A Demon In My View* and the genre fiction prize, awarded by the Arts Council National Book Awards Scheme, for *Lake of Darkness*.

Although Inspector Wexford has never appeared among the winners, there is no plan to pension him off. A new Kingsmarkham novel and an omnibus will be out next year. Police procedurals are her most popular books. "People like the puzzles and the familiar characters," she says. "Also I don't terrify them with those stories. This isn't because the plots are less frightening but because Wexford is there, protecting everybody. He's very paternalistic."

At what stage does she know whether

she will hand an idea over to Miss Vine or report it to the Inspector or keep it to herself? "It isn't a question of deciding," she says; "the ideas come to me as ideas for one kind of book or another."

But which does she most enjoy writing? "I don't enjoy the Wexfords as much." I suggest they have become a duty. There is the slightest pause before she says: "Yes."

The challenges of the traditional whodunnit could never satisfy a writer so fascinated with the technicalities of writing, even if the average reader is unaware of the intelligent selection of viewpoint, the ease with which she shunts her stories backwards and forwards in time, or the stealthy way she adjusts our sympathies.

"I used to think I was bad at construction," she says, "but I feel I've got better. *A Fatal Inversion* has the most complex structure I've ever done but not the most complex I will ever do. I like to be adventurous and find new ways of writing."

She herself reads good modern novelists and the Victorians, but she is not a keen reader of crime. Remembering something from years ago, I ask whether Barbara Vine (her middle name and a family surname) might not have been a bid to shake off the crime label. She denies it, adding that she does not feel she writes crime novels anyway. And adding after that: "Except for the Inspector Wexford stories."

Long may the three of her flourish.  
A Fatal Inversion by Barbara Vine is published in paperback by Viking. Talking To Strange Men by Ruth Rendell is published in paperback by Arrow.



Split personality: Ruth Rendell — "the Vine books are less violent than the suspense books"

### Centuries apart

#### LMP/Glover Queen Elizabeth Hall

Just in case you had forgotten, the format in the London Mozart Players' new series "Music of Two Decades" is to raise the curtain with a party of 17th-century music, then to match it, after the interval, with one from the 18th.

So last night Michael Haydn, Joseph's little brother, found himself facing David Matthews and, thanks to the stylish playing of the LMP, the meeting was a happy one.

The Little Symphony in D, with its tiny mirror-image phrases and shooting sequences, was nicely complemented by Mattheus's Op 29 Serenade. Written in 1982, this typically well-made, easily digestible work is formed, satisfyingly, of arches within an arch.

The two outer movements, beginning and ending very much high in the air of the Alde marshes, are both palindromic: the fact that they point in reverse once the midpoint is reached gives us the chance to relish to the full Mattheus's delicate mix and match sonnetries.

The evening's centre-piece is customarily a Mozart piano concerto: its final send-off to a Haydn Symphony. Yesterday it was the K453 G Major Concerto, played by Cristina Ortiz. Her performance, to be kind, was cool, sweet-toned, articulate: to be more specific, lustreless and lacking in anything but the most superficial of interpretative insight.

The ear was drawn, time and again, to the orchestral accompaniment, and it certainly redressed the imbalance. Jane Glover and her excellent leader, Luigi de Filippi, had between them perfected the finest violin line with which to unlock the work. The second violin theme glanced off the lower sustained strings as each phrase was tapered to let the woodwind gleam through: there is more for them than normally meets the ear.

Ortiz was at her best in the even, round-toned articulation of the final Presto. But it was a smileless affair. The same could hardly be said of Haydn's Symphony No 89, which both metaphorically and, at times, literally, chuckled its way into life in the opening Vivace, and whose Menuet provided some delightful fancies for the flute of Philippa Davies.

The Finale, with its muscular strascinando bowing, stomped its way home with considerable panache.

Hilary Finch

## Songs of praise

## CONCERTS

#### Gothic Voices Wigmore Hall

Time is passing more quickly in the Middle Ages these days than in our own period. One might have some difficulty in deciding whether an unfamiliar Berio piece, say, was written in the 1960s or in the 1980s, but there could be no mistaking a Machaut performance by the Early Music Consort, who introduced many of us to this repertoire 20 years ago, for one by Gothic Voices, currently one of the most prized medieval ensembles.

Gone are the crumhorns, kortholts and dulcians of David Munrow's instrumentarium: one hears only the suave concourse of voices (just one song out of 18 last night was discreetly accompanied by a harp).

This style of intimate vocal polyphony certainly suits the

songs of Dufay and other 15th-century composers, since by that period these contrapuntal lines were more equal in interest and the harmony smoother in its flow. I am not sure it always works so well in 14th-century music. For instance, in the very beautiful "Quando la stella", by a Florentine, Giovanni, the upper part is deliciously florid, while the lower one plods, and presenting it as a duet for tenors made it seem like a contest between beauty and truth.

Perhaps the intention was to use a style suited to the 1420s for music composed up to a century before, since Christopher Page, the ensemble's director and front-man, reminded us that Machaut's songs were still being sung in Italy 50 years after the composer's death.

That was a point well made, and the concluding performance of Machaut's "Rose, liz, printemps, verdure" exemplified all the qualities that distinguished Gothic Voices: the long, sure lines, the handling of even the trickiest ornament with calm perfection, the justness and clarity of balance, in sum, the understanding of how these songs function as works of art from an age of accomplishment.

Paul Griffiths

## Comic ease

## THEATRE

#### L'Eloignement Gaîté Montparnasse

An author's emotional hang-over the morning after the first night of his new play is the dramatic peg on which Lohé Bellon adroitly hangs her own new, shading-in-black comedy *L'Eloignement* (Distance). Well-crafted according to the traditional recipe, the plot is credible, has a good beginning with leads into an alternating high and low-tensioned middle, and draws to an intelligent, suspended end. The natural dialogue is nourishing, with a good seasoning of acerbic wit. Bernard Murat's succinct, evenly paced direction boasts no artificial additives, and he is well served by a strong cast headed by Pierre Arditi as the playwright (Charles) and Macha Méril as his wife (Denise).

The play opens as Charles, still reeling from the failure of a previous play, emerges

from a grizzly social hibernation in search of the warming assurance that his newly opened play is a success. Denise is his emotional sponge, ever ready to mop up his anguish, allowing her own life to be subjugated to his irrational, infantile outbursts.

Correctly measured, humorous doses of the world outside regularly pierce this egocentric relationship. A neighbour (Gilles Gaston-Dreyfus) asking a neighbourly favour is boxed about the ears with blazing invective. The irony is still in the fire when Michel, the director of Charles's play (commendably played by Jean Benguigui), arrives and also receives an erudite tongue lashing.

*Le Monde*, because it comes out at midday, is the only French daily that manages to carry next-day reviews, and the unexpected arrival of an advance copy containing a rave review transforms Charles into an affable hero, who loves the world and his wife. The bringer of the good tidings is a shamelessly zany, but nevertheless believable radio journalist (Sylvie Flepp), who justifies conducting an interview without knowing the first thing about Charles or his play with the remark: "Me, I don't review, I inform."

With the swiftness of grains of sand falling through an hourglass, we watch the relentless distancing of Charles and Denise. Charles's self-centred elation, his perpetual game of love and take, finally eclipses the feelings of his wife and daughter (Catherine Ferrière). Gently, the last grain slips away into time, and Charles finds himself alone with his success.

Bellon writes with a photographic flair, capturing *la vie quotidienne*, adjusting the focus so that it is more compact than reality. There is an easiness about the dialogue that belies its clever construction, and how satisfyingly it spells out the unseen parts that go to make up this entertainingly rounded play.

Now in her sixties, Bellon began her highly successful theatrical career 40 years ago as an actress. *L'Eloignement* is her fifth play, and it sees a further polishing of her sensitive, but never flabby, exploration of human relationships, observed with compassion and recounted for the theatre with an articulate passion.

Diana Hill

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# Regency restoration graces Whitehall

By John Young

Whitehall will receive a handsome and long-awaited facelift on Monday when Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, officially opens Richmond House, opposite the Cenotaph.

The building is a mixture of new building and refurbishment, the highlight of which is the restoration to its former glory of the splendid Regency facade of Richmond Terrace, which was at one time threatened with demolition.

The total estimated cost of the development is £38,600,000 and its nearly 15,000 sq m of office space will be used by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The terrace stands on the site of the former Richmond House, which was destroyed by fire in 1791; before that the site had formed part of the orchard of Whitehall Palace. It was designed between 1819 and 1822, either by Thomas Chawner or Henry Harrison, and completed in 1824.

The eight houses, the last of them facing on to Whitehall, quickly became highly sought-after residences for the great and the good of the nineteenth century, among them politicians, writers, an Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Henry Morton Stanley, the explorer, and Quintin Hogg.

All the houses except No 8 remained in residential occupation until the original leases expired in 1921, after which they were gradually converted to offices.

In the 1930s it was decided that the

terrace should be demolished, and a scheme for a new Government office building was approved by the Royal Fine Art Commission, only to be halted by the outbreak of the war.

The demolition proposals were revived during the development boom of the 1960s but met with fierce opposition, and a public inquiry in 1970 concluded that the facade of both Richmond Terrace and the adjacent Norman Shaw (North) building should be retained.

Despite that, it remained in a state of increasing decay for several more years, until in 1978 the Government decided to go ahead with the restoration of the listed facade and interior.

The following year panelling, doors, fireplaces and plaster mouldings were removed to safe storage, temporary weatherproofing and underpinning were installed, and the structurally sound parts of the buildings demolished. The erection of a reinforced concrete frame to support the terrace facade was completed by Water Construction in 1984.

The final part of the project, now completed by Taylor Woodrow under contract to the Government's Property Services Agency, incorporates the restoration of the terrace, the refurbishment of 85 Whitehall and 40-54 Parliament Street, and a new building, comprising seven storeys and a basement, designed by Whitfield Partners to complement the Norman Shaw building and to retain the historic skyline.



Richmond House, Whitehall, which is to be the headquarters of the DHSS, showing the new building and the Regency facade.

Mr Kit Evans, one of the architects responsible for the restoration of Richmond Terrace, surveying the finished task in the Conference Room yesterday (Photograph: Graham Wood).

## Commons sketch

### The panto season is in full swing

Mr Neil Kinnock's preferred way of voicing deep opposition to Mr. Thatcher's government is to lie well back in his seat with his feet up on the table in front of him, a broad grin across his face. Sometimes he will chat to Mr Roy Hattersley, who looks blob-like to his right; at other times he will joke with jolly Mr Frank Dobson. Once in a while, he will ask the Prime Minister a question. But, for the most part, his you-can't-foot-me grin is expected to suffice.

"The Honourable Lady is suffering from incurable complacency and untreatable arrogance", he bellowed, flicking his index finger this way and that. He might also have predicted that she would soon be suffering from figure fatigue, for the National Health Service can still never be mentioned without the Hon Lady flooding the chamber with figures.

She had already announced that spending had gone up enormously - 43 per cent on family practitioner service, 26 per cent on hospital and community spending, 42 per cent on capital expenditure, and so on. At times like these, she gives the impression that she could not walk along the street without first counting the paving-stones and extracting percentages from the frequency of cracks.

Between grins, Mr Kinnock quoted from the recent complaints of senior physicians, informed criticism. Conservative backbenchers have long felt that this is a most unfair means of attack, and Mr Harry Greenwood began banging his order paper against his knee, the child waiting his protest at such horrid medicine.

Prime Minister's Question Time might more suitably be re-titled Prime Minister's Answer Time, for her answers now bear little connection to the preceding questions. Ignoring the physicians' report, she quoted yet more figures: the proportion of the GNP spent on the NHS had increased from 4.8 per cent under the Labour government to 3.5 per cent under the Conservatives.

It was beginning to resemble some awful mathematics lesson. The Opposition benches, desperate to avoid further sums, began to make their protests more vociferous. "Got no

heart!" boomed a Labour backbencher, "Got no heart!" The rest of them screamed and shouted, except for Mr Kinnock, who just grinned.

"Order! Order!" said the Speaker.

Mr George Foulkes (Lab) yelled: "You're like a Pakistani umpire!" though whether he was talking to the Prime Minister or the Speaker was unclear. Indeed, so loud was his outburst that he may well have been addressing himself directly to the umpire in question.

"Disgraceful! Disgraceful!" all the Conservatives seemed to yell together, as if the words had been lowered down, pantomime-style, from the ceiling. "Out! Out! Out!"

On such occasions, MPs become admirable in their capacity to hold the conflicting passions of outrage and hilarity in their heads at the same time: as they waved their order papers in anger, they also managed to laugh their heads off. Sometimes it is as if the front half of the political pantomime horse, dutifully shedding rehearsed tears, is somehow still performing an Irish polka.

Perhaps worried that further figures might provoke rioting, the Prime Minister began to blare an inventory of operations. "There have never been more heart bypasses, more hip replacements, more cataract operations, more bone marrow transplants, more..."

The list went on and on. Mr Kinnock hit back with a savage grin. "He cannot bear to hear the facts," declared Mrs Thatcher.

At the bar of the House, Mr Norman Tebbit stood a few feet away from Mr Tony Benn, the pair of them a sinister version of *The Bachelors in the Wood*. Mr Tebbit's smile mirrored and reversed in Mr Benn's grimace. The fiercely bearded Mr Dave Nellist declared that the Prime Minister had begun to sound like a cracked record. "Doesn't she care?" he bleated.

In reply, Mrs Thatcher reeled off yet more operations. Mr Kinnock continued to grin. As Mr Nellist seemed to suggest, this record will run and run.

Craig Brown

## Statement clears officials over preface controversy

Continued from page 1

points concerning the content of the preface.

He said he believed Dr Bennett had been "speaking a word of prophecy". Dr Bennett had wanted radical changes in the church, to halt its continued decline.

The sub-committee, of which Dr Bennett had been a member, met at Addington Palace in Croydon, south London. The meeting, which was routinely scheduled before the preface affair blew up, continues today with other business.

As he read his statement, Dr Runcie was flanked by three senior synod dignitaries, the chairman of the House of Laity, Professor David McLean, and the Prolocutors of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, Canon David Sile and Canon Peter Boulton. None of them made any comment.

The full statement reads:

"The policy sub-committee of the standing committee of the General Synod holding its regular meeting at Addington Palace on Thursday December 10 asked its chairman, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who presided throughout the meeting, to make the following statement.

"1. The committee expresses its very great grief at the tragic death of one of its members, Dr Gareth Bennett. His views were well known to the committee which had valued greatly his contribution to its discussions and his personal friendship.

"2. The choice of the author of the Crockford's preface and the procedure for publication were the responsibility of Mr Derek Paterson, secretary general of the General Synod of the Church of England, and Mr James Shelley, the secretary of the Church Commissioners, who gave Dr Bennett an assurance of complete anonymity. In that and all

other respects they acted strictly in accordance with precedent. The committee expresses its total confidence in the way these officers handled the whole matter.

"3. The committee deplores the various pressures to which Dr Bennett had evidently been subjected, following the preface's publication."

Dr Runcie said he may have more to add at a later time.

Both Mr Paterson and Mr Shelley were present at the committee meeting. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, did not preside, though that had apparently been the earlier intention. That was thought to be because he had come under some criticism himself, particularly for an outspoken statement he made after the preface's publication and before Dr Bennett's death. Dr Runcie, though, who was criticized in the preface itself, played no public role in the aftermath.

## Women being sterilized are urged 'give eggs to infertile'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Britain's first test-tube baby from an anonymous donor's egg has been born in a hospital in Bristol, it was announced yesterday.

At the same time, doctors appealed to the 100,000 women a year undergoing routine sterilization operations to donate eggs, either to help infertile women to have test-tube babies or to advance fertilization research.

Clare Sian Lloyd-Henry was delivered at Bristol Maternity Hospital, weighing 7lbs and a healthy full-term baby.

She is only the second baby in the world born after *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) using a donated egg from an anonymous woman.

The other recorded case was in Brussels, although 19 test-tube babies have been born from eggs donated by known donors, mostly relatives.

The birth followed research

by the IVF specialists, Mr Michael Hall and Mr Peter Wardle, of the obstetric and gynaecology department at Bristol University.

The doctors said yesterday: "Our main problem is the limited numbers of donors. If more women came forward as potential donors we would be able to do a great deal more for infertile women."

The IVF technique involves the removal of an egg from the donor's ovary. It is then fertilized in the laboratory by the father's semen and later transferred to the recipient mother.

Researchers hope the technique will help some of Britain's 275,000 infertile couples aged between 24 and 35. Several women are undergoing similar treatment around the country.

Clare's parents, Mrs Donna

Lloyd-Henry and her husband Paul, who come from Hampshire, tried to have children for five years. Mrs Lloyd-Henry suffered from premature menopause when she was 24.

She said: "I do not know the donor and she does not know me. I will always be extremely grateful to her, but now Clare is totally ours."

The team at Bristol University began its work in 1984. Of 22 women who came in for routine sterilizations, 20 agreed to take part in the project and donate eggs to infertile women.

When Clare was born, both parents, who donated £1,000 towards the cost of the treatment, broke down in tears. Her father said: "We were so happy. We felt we would have done anything to have a baby."

## Gorbachov wins over US political animals

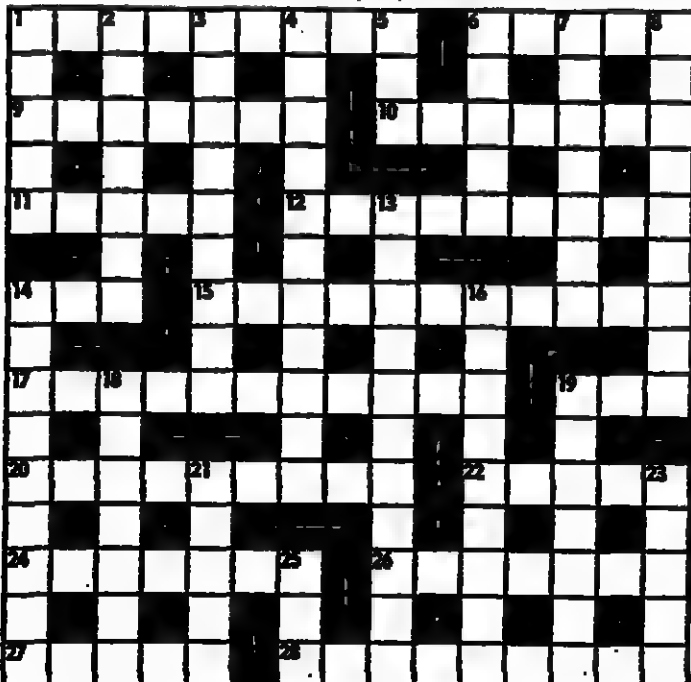
Continued from page 1

himself. For that, he would have to be electable. We have yet to see whether he is electable in the Soviet Union, and we probably never will. It is even more problematic whether someone like him could be elected at the end of one of those long US campaigns. By that time, Americans would have got to know him much better than they had at the end of a three-day visit. They would notice that his way with hostile questions - such as the one he was asked about Soviet emigration - suggests that he

is someone who is not used to being asked them.

Also, he does tend to lecture. "The Soviet Union has its own interests, and the United States has its own interests," went one typical passage. "... every country has its own specific interests." He was addressing what was described as a gathering of US artists and intellectuals. Mr Reagan would have told funny stories about working with Errol Flynn. Whatever artists and intellectuals say in public, they - like most US voters - prefer that sort of thing from a world leader.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE No 17,537



### ACROSS

- 1 Board includes a head, with educational potential (9).
- 6 A large number initially employed in Japanese plant (5).
- 9 Love to play? I'm changing in games centre (7).
- 10 Witness to make a statement (7).
- 11 Resigned, thus, to cars (5).
- 12 Novel written as child slept (9).
- 14 I see why listeners get such a cold spell (3).
- 15 It's obvious partners in carriage don't exist (11).
- 17 Boil, then ignite, to undergo conversion (3,3,5).
- 19 Old coin or note in foreign currency (3).
- 20 Result of much rain - a crash in Eastern Region (9).
- 22 Little by little, a shrub appears (5).
- 24 One fish in Mediterranean tank (7).
- 26 Bury, for instance, inside hole, say (7).
- 27 Split between Conservative and his opponents (5).
- 28 Looked after hands - hence my success as doctor (9).

### DOWN

- 1 Toddlers left group, in short (5).
- 2 Undistinguished person (7).
- 3 Limp put an end to children's game (9).
- 4 Post accepted by more wicked criminal (11).
- 5 Once in Rome, I say nothing (3).
- 6 Book among those abridged (5).
- 7 On moral grounds, hold back very little (7).
- 8 Such a tale can do damage (9).
- 13 Create a style, holding one title (11).
- 14 Restless Simon wildly raised Cain (9).
- 16 Genuine article held by female relative detailing 14ac (9).
- 18 Change to count, say - quarters and gold coin (7).
- 19 Like David in ill-matched contest, second last (7).
- 21 Somewhat hard-headed, in practice (5).
- 23 A ringleader caught by detectives is bitter (5).
- 25 Stupid and lacking distinction (3).

Concise crossword, page 10

### WORD-WATCHING

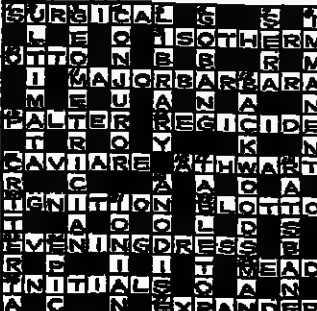
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- CENOBITE**  
a. A light supper  
b. A monk  
c. A sarcasm
- PARAPEH**  
a. A spiggle  
b. A carnivorous fish  
c. A computer format
- FABLIAU**  
a. An anchor  
b. A slender  
c. A poem
- TSUBA**  
a. Bamboo brandy  
b. A Chinese vase  
c. A sword guard

Answers on page 16, column 8

### Solution to Puzzle No 17,536



### WEATHER

General situation: A slow-moving area of high pressure will persist over the British Isles. Generally cloudy over northern parts of Scotland with the chance of a little light rain, and some eastern coastal counties of Britain may also be rather cloudy at times. Rather a cold day in most parts, with frost and patchy fog returning after nightfall. Windy in the far south-west. Outlook: cloudier, less cold weather with a little rain will move gradually north-eastwards to most parts.

#### ABROAD

Area	Cloud	Drizzle	Fog	Snow	Thunder
Algeria	11	12	13	14	15
Amman	16	17	18	19	20
Algiers	21	22	23	24	25
Antwerp	26	27	28	29	30
Athens	31	32	33	34	35
Bahia	36	37	38	39	40
Bombay	41	42	43	44	45
Buenos Aires	46	47	48	49	50
Calcutta	51	52	53	54	55
Cairo	56	57	58	59	60
Cardiff	61	62	63	64	65
Cebu	66	67	68	69	70
Dakar	71	72	73	74	75
Dhaka	76	77	78	79	80
Dublin	81	82	83	84	85
Edinburgh	86	87	88	89	90
Geneva	91	92	93	94	95
Hong Kong	96	97	98	99	100
London	101	102	103	104	105
Lyons	106	107	108	109	110
Madrid	111	112	113	114	115
Moscow	116	117	118	119	120
Paris	121	122	123	124	125
Rangoon	126	127	128	129	130
Reykjavik	131	132	133	134	135
Rome	136	137	138	139	140
Singapore	141	142	143	144	145
Tokyo	146	147	148	149	150
Yokohama	151	152	153	154	155

#### AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Cloud	Drizzle	Fog	Snow	Thunder
Scotland	156	157	158	159	160
London	161	162	163	164	165
Cardiff	166	167	168	169	170
Belfast	171	172	173	174	175
Manchester	176	177	178	179	180
Sheffield	181	182	183	184	185
Nottingham	186	187	188	189	190
Leeds	191	192	193	194	195
Sheff	196	197	198	199	200
Bradford	201	202	203	204	205
Coventry	206	207	208	209	210
Birmingham	211	212	213	214	215
Southampton	216	217	218	219	220
Exeter	221	222	223	224	225
Cardiff	226	227	228	229	230
Belfast	231	232	233	234	235
Manchester	236	237	238	239	240
Sheffield	241	242	243	244	245
Nottingham	246	247	248	249	250
Leeds	251	252	253	254	255
Sheff	256	257	258	259	260
Bradford	261	262	263	264	265
Coventry	266	267	268	269	270
Birmingham	271	272	273	274	275
Southampton	276	277	278	279	280
Exeter	281	282	283	284	285
Cardiff	286	287	288	289	290
Belfast	291	292	293	294	295
Manchester	296	297	298	299	300
Sheffield	301	302	303	304	305
Nottingham	306	307	308	309	310
Leeds	311	312	313	314	315
Sheff	316	317	318	319	320
Bradford	321	322	323	324	325
Coventry	326	327	328	329	330
Birmingham	331	332	333	334	335
Southampton	336	337	338	339	340
Exeter	341	342	343	344	345
Cardiff	346	347	348	349	350
Belfast	351	352	353	354	355
Manchester	356	357	358	359	360
Sheffield	361	362	363	364	365
Nottingham	366	367	368	369	370
Leeds	371	372	373	374	375
Sheff	376	377	378	379	380
Bradford	381	382	383	384	385
Coventry	386	387	388	389	390
Birmingham	391	392	393	394	395
Southampton	396	397	398	399	400
Exeter	401	402	403	404	405
Cardiff	406	407	408	409	410
Belfast	411	412	413	414	415
Manchester	416	417	418	419	420
Sheffield	421	422	423	424	425
Nottingham	426	427	428	429	430
Leeds	431	432	433	434	435
Sheff	436	437	438	439	440
Bradford	441	442	443	444	445
Coventry	446	447	448	449	450
Birmingham	451	452	453	454	455
Southampton	456	457	458	459	460
Exeter	461	462	463	464	465
Cardiff	466	467	468	469	470
Belfast	471	472	473	474	475
Manchester	476	477	478	479	480
Sheffield	481	482	483	484	485
Nottingham	486	487	488	489	490
Leeds	491	492	493	494	495
Sheff	496	497	498	499	500



PART 2

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1987

Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1285.0 (-12.6)  
FT-SE 100  
1619.6 (-19.7)  
Bargains  
25469 (21136)  
USM (Datastream)  
127.48 (-1.82)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8280 (+0.0240)  
W German mark  
2.9952 (-0.0021)  
Trade-weighted  
76.0 (+0.2)

GUS 15% ahead at £155m

Great Universal Stores, the mail order, shops and financial services company, yesterday turned in its usual solid performance with a 15.6 per cent rise in pretax profits to £155.4 million in the six months to September 30 from £134.4 million in the corresponding half last year. Turnover was £1.23 billion compared with £1.12 billion.

Mr Harold Bowman, the joint deputy chairman, denied that GUS had lost market share to rivals in the British catalogue market, claiming that the company currently has about 43 per cent of the market. GUS is also sitting on more than £300 million cash which will be used for expansion and acquisitions. The interim dividend rises 12.5 per cent from 8p to 9p.

**Dowty ahead**  
Dowty Group is raising its interim dividend from 2.5p to 2.8p a share after reporting a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits of £26.4 million for the six months ended September 30 compared with £22.9 million. Turnover rose from £256.5 million to £292.8 million. *Times, page 20*

Pilkington up

A sharp drop in a major customer's market share pushed Pilkington's US glass business for automotive manufacture into loss in the six months to end-September. Despite this, group profits rose 41 per cent to £122.1 million. *Times, page 20*

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	1988.24 (-9.28)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	23280.84 (+385.14)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2027.87 (+42.89)
Australia	ASX 100	207.6 (+5.0)
Sydney	ASX 200	1235.9 (-1.4)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1317.1 (+8.1)
Brussels	Brussels	3449.4 (+57.1)
Paris	Paris CAC	277.4 (+3.3)
Zurich	Zurich SMI	418.9 (+4.4)
London	FT-SE 100	1619.6 (-19.7)
FT-SE 250	FT-SE 250	1285.0 (-12.6)
FT-SE 100	FT-SE 100	1619.6 (-19.7)
FT-SE 250	FT-SE 250	1285.0 (-12.6)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

month Interbank 8 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>16</sub> -8 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> %
month eligible bills: 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> -8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>32</sub> %
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> %
federal Funds 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> -1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> %
month Treasury Bills 5.78-5.77%
0-year bonds 95 <sup>32</sup> / <sub>32</sub> -95 <sup>32</sup> / <sub>32</sub>

## CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.8280	£: \$1.8250*
DM2.9952	£: DM1.6390*
SfrFr2.4459	£: SfrFr1.3365*
WFr10.1774	£: Ffr5.5680*
Yen236.63	£: Yen129.65*
Index: 78.0	£: Index: 94.2
CCU 0.698529	SOR 0.755735

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 8 1/4%  
3-month interbank 8 1/4-8 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 8 1/4-8 1/2%  
buying rate  
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%  
Federal Funds 6 1/4-6 1/2%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.75-5.77%  
30-year bonds 9 3/4-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.8280	£: \$1.8290
£: DM2.9952	£: DM2.9952
£: Sfr2.459	£: Sfr2.459
£: FF10.1774	£: FF10.1774
£: Yen236.63	£: Yen236.63
£: Index78.0	£: Index78.0
ECU 0.688529	ECU 0.688529

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$484.50 pm \$488.00  
Close \$487.25-487.75 (\$268.50-269.00)  
New York:  
Comex \$489.20-489.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Jan.) pm \$18.10 (\$18.03)  
Denotes latest trading price

# Record deficit hits markets

## US figures set new test for Reagan

From Bailey Morris, Washington  
The United States trade deficit surged to a record \$17.63 billion in October, providing a new test for the Reagan Administration's controversial dollar policy. Financial markets were stunned by the trade figures, which were far worse than had been expected. Shares on Wall Street dropped by 50 points in 15 minutes after the figures were released.

The dollar also plunged to record lows, but stabilized after the US Federal Reserve Board intervened, with the Bundesbank and the Swiss National Bank, to check the currency's fall.

US Commerce Department officials said yesterday that the big rise in motor car imports from Japan and Korea and another large increase in oil imports were responsible for the record monthly deficit.

Mr James Wright, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, assailed the

## Dollar in worldwide slump

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent  
The US trade figures pushed the dollar sharply lower, and produced a sharp markdown in share prices. Dealers had expected an October trade deficit of no more than \$16 billion, and the actual figure of \$17.63 billion produced a wave of dollar selling. It ended sharply lower against the yen, at ¥129.45, down from ¥132.20, the first time it has been below the ¥130 level.

Against the mark, the dollar fell by nearly 2.5 pfennigs to DM1.6385, while the pound rose by 2.4 cents to £1.8280.

Share prices in London fell sharply on the announcement of the trade figures. At one stage the FT-SE 100 index was more than 30 points down. But shares recovered, and the index closed only 19.7 points down, at 1619.6.

On Wall Street last night, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 11.44 points, at 1988.24.

Although the trade figures were much worse than the markets were expecting, dealers took the view that part of the deterioration was erratic. Technical factors, and in particular position-taking in the dollar before the end of the year, also limited financial market movements.

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## County poised to buy Wood Mac

By Richard Thomson and Geoffrey Foster  
Wood Mackenzie, the stock-broker and market-making firm, is to be sold to County NatWest, the merchant banking and securities arm of National Westminster Bank.

The move is expected to result in substantial redundancies at Wood Mac and possibly at County, although the two firms fit together well in many areas. While Wood Mac is strong in equity research, County has never built up a strong team of analysts. County has also not excelled in market-making since Big Bang.

But there are certain to be some areas of overlap, which will require staff reductions, and since the stock market crash, securities firms have started cutting costs as the sharp drop in market turnover has hit hopes of a profitable second half.

County has already dismissed some employees for their handling of customers' accounts during the share price collapse and last week cut the basic salary of its seven top executives by 20 per cent.

Wood Mac has 150 employees and County NatWest has more than 1,000.

Meanwhile, two senior executives have resigned from the London securities arm of Union Bank of Switzerland, which also plans to make

## Certificates worth millions sent to the wrong people

By Cliff Feltman  
A serious blunder has led to share certificates worth millions of pounds, and thousands of pounds in dividends, being sent to former investors in Rolls-Royce, the newly privatized aero-engine group. Many of the cheques have been cashed.

A special task force has been set up by the company's registrars, National Westminster Bank, to sort out the problem. Some people who sold their shares on allotment letters earlier in the year have also sent certificates and are understood to have sold the shares over again.

"It is the biggest problem I have faced in 30 years in the business," said Mr Bernard Ward, head of the registrars' department in Bristol.

Some stockbroking firms are now refusing to sell Rolls-Royce shares for clients until they have authenticated the ownership. The Stock Exchange has warned members to keep a close watch on Rolls-Royce transactions.

A total of 15,000 share certificates have been sent out in error. The problem was caused by the change of ownership not being registered in time, so that the



Bright hopes: Sir Graham (left) and Colin Southgate, chief executive (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

## Thorn EMI advances 46%

By Carol Fergusson  
Thorn EMI, the diversified electronics group, announced a strong interim performance yesterday, in line with analysts' expectations. Pretax profits for the period to end-September jumped 46 per cent to £60.7 million, on turnover down 5 per cent to £1.4 billion.

Sir Graham Wilkins, the chairman, said that the interim dividend, which was increased by 20 per cent to 6p, had been raised by more than last year's final in percentage terms. "This signals the confidence we have in the remain-

## Eurotunnel shares drop £1

By Joe Joseph  
Shares in Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the Channel tunnel, lost about a quarter of their value on the first day of trading.

The deep discount reflected the undersubscription of both the British and French tranches of last last month's £770 million share issue, the absence of travel perks for those who buy the shares now, and the slack left with the underwriters. About 112,000 British private investors applied for shares and 200,000 in France.

The shares - which were offered at 350p each, including one warrant - began dealings at 284p and swiftly fell in light volume to 253p, ex-warrant, ending the day at 250p. The warrants fared better, rising from an early 10p to a peak of 14p before closing at 12.5p.

Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's British co-chairman, said he was not disappointed by the debut. "There has been no dumping of shares. It is a professional adjustment period that one expected. When prices will turn up again - which they should - or whether they will sink further, I don't know."

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## Minet agrees £400m US bid

By Alison Eadie  
Minet, the Lloyd's insurance broker, yesterday agreed to a £400 million cash bid from St Paul Companies, the Minnesota, US, insurance broker which has owned a 26 per cent stake for the past six years.

Minet's other large shareholder, Corroon & Black, the US insurance broking group, has not been consulted about the offer, although the two Corroon directors on Minet's board voted in support of St Paul's offer. Corroon only last month raised its stake to 29.9 per cent from 25 per cent, saying the extra shares were for "investment purposes."

A counterbid from Corroon is considered unlikely, because of the generosity of St Paul's offer and St Paul's greater size and financial strength. The bid is worth 475p a share, 185p above the prevailing market price. Minet shares closed last night at 465p.

St Paul is one of the largest property and liability insurance groups in America and has net assets of \$1.75 billion (£961.54 million).

Mr Ray Petit, the chairman of Minet, said that in an increasingly tough world, it was a tremendous help to have the backing of a group like St Paul. Minet will continue to be run as an autonomous unit with its management structure unchanged. "We will be in a more financially powerful position to expand the business," Mr Petit said.

There has been speculation about a possible bid from either of Minet's two big shareholders since the PCW affair at Lloyd's was settled in the summer. Minet used to own the loss-stricken PCW underwriting agencies.

The insurance broking sector has been under pressure in recent months due to weakening rates on many types of business and the falling dollar. Minet has performed better than many of its competitors. In the nine months to the end of September it made pretax profits 13 per cent higher at £27.9 million.

## Sears welcomes Al-Fayed stake

By Our City Staff  
Smith, the chairman of Sears, said he was pleased that the Al-Fayeds looked on the £200 million stake as a long-term investment.

"We have been in a state of uncertainty for some time and that affects morale right throughout the business."

"Everyone has been asking whether something was going to happen. We already have good trading links with House of Fraser, having concessions in some of their stores, and I am looking forward to a happy working relationship with Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed, whom I have known for some time. It takes the heat off us and allows us to get on with running the business," said Mr Maitland Smith.

Sears shares fell 12p to 136p on the stock market yesterday on the news that the stake was not being built up as a platform for a takeover bid.

Mr Holmes & Court was understood to have sold his holding in Sears at 145p a share against the 160p he is thought to have paid.

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# Oil price set to stay at \$18 with Iraq back in the fold

From David Young, Vienna

An announcement that will leave the world oil price at its present \$18 (£10) a barrel market level is expected to be made by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) at its meeting here today, but with Iran refusing to sign the official agreement.

The oil producers' cartel is expected to move into discussions today on how a new production-sharing agreement can be implemented for next year, but again it appears that any agreement on that issue may have to be made without Iran.

An Opec agreement without Iran would do little to bring stability to the world oil market, but any negative effect of that decision would be more than counter-balanced by a return of Iraq into the

Opec agreement system.

It now seems Iraq will return to the fold and accept an output quota close to the existing Iranian quota. It is understood to have already offered to cut its output by half a million barrels a day, and some observers expect it will add to Iran's embarrassment by offering to take a further cut during discussions this morning.

Iran's decision to refuse to accept the new agreement on prices and quotas is in line with the country's current policy of maximizing revenues from oil, but it has been significant that the current Opec meeting has wasted no time in attempts to persuade Iran to unite behind the other member states.

Discussions yesterday were

characterized by one country after another telling Iran that if it wants to operate outside the Opec agreements, then it should go ahead and see if it can get a better price for its oil on open markets.

Venezuela went a step further and warned other Opec members about making threats within the meeting about stepping up production and disrupting the market.

Señor Arturo Grisanti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said "Venezuela will not be threatened by anyone." And he said he would leave the Vienna meeting if any disruptive activity was continued by any of the other countries.

In the past, Opec has tried to keep the antagonism between Iran and Iraq away

from the conference chamber — the two countries sit side by side around the negotiating table — but lately Iranian delegates have been more forceful in their criticism of Iraq, at a time when Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been increasingly affected by the military activity in the Gulf.

The Opec president, Dr Rihvan Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister, said last night: "Progress is being made."

However, it is understood that the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Indonesia have written to the Iranian delegation, saying Iran can go along with the majority decision or not, but it should call an immediate halt to its attempts to create a public split within the organization.

## Westland warning on dollar weakness

By Michael Tate

The weakness of the dollar is forcing Westland, the helicopter group, to warn of a drop in its profit expectations for the current year.

Westland, which is based in Somerset, had a profit setback in the year to the end of September, from £26.4 million to £18.4 million after £16 million of provisions for redundancy payments.

Group turnover rose from £344.4 million to £381.6 million, and earnings per share improved from 16p to 17.9p, if the provisions are ignored. A 2.25p final dividend lifts the total for the year to 3.5p a share.

The results beat most analysts' profit forecasts for the year. But Sir John Cockney, the chairman of Westland, gave a warning that the weakening dollar would "inevitably" have an impact on the profit margins of the group's aerospace and technology divisions next year.

Many of the group's hopes are pinned on these two divisions over the next two or three years when helicopter orders may be pending the arrival in 1991 of the EH101.

Sir John said yesterday: "A broader industrial base is required so that the effect of the helicopter's performance on the overall group results is significantly reduced."

However, narrowing margins in the US, which is responsible for about a third of the turnover of the aerospace and technology divisions combined, would clearly restrict the growth of the non-helicopter operations.

Helicopter profits almost doubled from £8.9 million to £17.3 million, while Westland Technologies, which makes aircraft oxygen systems and air conditioning, improved from £1.1 million to £12.5 million, and Westland Aerospace, the hovercraft and aircraft parts business, earned £4.2 million against £4.1 million.

Sir John said Westland was now "one of the most cost-competitive European helicopter manufacturers," but clearly it will need to be as it sets out to win the export orders it will need to compensate for the disappointing level of orders from the British Government.

Looking further ahead, the EH101 appears already to have won "firm intentions" in respect of some 200 craft, compared with the 800 that Westland and its Italian partner Agusta have targeted to sell over the next 20 years.

## COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Punch-drunk markets ride US trade disaster

In spite of a record \$17.63 billion deficit in the US trade figures, the reaction in financial markets — after an initial dive — was more restrained than could have been expected. The predominant feeling was that they were too bad to be true.

It may be that markets have grown immune to bad news; or that in the run-up to Christmas no one has the heart to embark on a new phase of the crisis. When the market-go-round found its way back to the point where the crash of 1987 began — a bad set of US trade figures for August — it had run out of steam.

That said, the record trade gap, with few extenuating circumstances, left the markets in a highly vulnerable position. The worst case before the figures was a \$16 billion October deficit. Now, the US trade position is seen to be even more desperate than even pessimists thought.

The main worry is that the principal crumb of comfort emerging from the crash — the prospect of a sharp slowdown in the growth of demand in the US — is not coming about. Very soon, the US consumer will have his 1988 tax cut to compensate for the wealth losses arising from the market fall. In this context, the prospect of a correction in the US trade deficit, over any sort of time frame, looks less and less likely.

The central point about yesterday's October numbers was that they applied to a period before the dollar had embarked on its downward shift in the wake of Black Monday, October 19. Future figures, because of the dollar's renewed decline, will suffer from the additional disadvantage of having further "J" curves imposed on an already deteriorating trend. Even a sharply lower Japanese trade surplus — down to \$4.74 billion last month from \$7.4 billion a year earlier — does not alter the gloom over the US trade outlook.

The ball is firmly back in Washington's court, with no certainty that it will be returned cleanly. Does a bad set of figures force the Administration to support the dollar, on the argument that it will be some time before the economic fundamentals begin to do so? Or do they just add to Treasury Secretary James Baker's apparent ambivalence towards the US currency, and the view that the dollar needs to go a lot lower before the trade position starts to improve?

The Federal Open Market Committee will have a great deal to consider when it meets next week. Salomon Brothers, in its *Financial Prospects for 1988*, expects further dollar weakness and a rise of 1 to 2 per cent in the Federal funds rate over the next few weeks.

## Gordon's place in the sun

One man who views the recent collapse in stock markets with a smile of contentment and a gleam of ambition is Donald Gordon, head of Liberty Life and prime mover of Liberty's associate company in Britain, TransAtlantic Holdings. Having bid earlier this year for Continental and Industrial Trust (in which TransAtlantic now has a 40 per cent stake), he sold its entire portfolio of British and US equities in August. Out of a total fund of £155 million, £140 million is invested in short-dated gilts.

Although Mr Gordon is not convinced that the fall in markets is over, he patiently has the means to move whenever the right opportunities, which always emerge in a bear market, occur. TransAtlantic, which has almost £1 billion of assets and an impressive financial record to match, sees enormous scope in the financial services industry "following London's realignment and implications of Big Bang."

Thus it was a boyant Mr Gordon who yesterday addressed the Society of Investment Analysts as he deftly suggested might have decided, finally, that "we are a serious long-term player on the United Kingdom financial scene — not a corporate maverick delighting in upsetting longstanding British institutions." On the basis of shareholders' funds, TransAtlantic is probably already

in the top 50 British companies, with three large interests: a 26 per cent holding in Sun Life; Capital & Counties — "perhaps the premier shopping centre developer in the country" — and Continental & Industrial Trust. Its shares are now quoted in Luxembourg and the intention is to seek a London listing "as soon as is practicable."

The main focus of City interest is still the stake in Sun Life. The directors have resisted TransAtlantic's requests for boardroom representation and remained cold to the business advantages of allying TransAtlantic's resources with Sun Life's marketing and distribution skills — despite TransAtlantic's willingness to give an undertaking not to raise its stake above 29.9 per cent and not to bid save in the event of a bid by another company.

"Our position is still consistent," Mr Gordon told the analysts. "In truth, however, we are becoming less sanguine that the board will be able to move away from its entrenched position, which we believe is detrimental to the interests of Sun Life and very short-sighted."

"We have made it quite clear to Mr Peter Grant (the chairman) that our stake is a long-term strategic holding and not for sale and I have no doubt that in the end the impasse will be resolved to the advantage of shareholders of both companies."

## BET could net £170m on sale of offshoots

By Alison Eadie

BET, the industrial services group, is selling its non-core electronics operations, including Rediffusion Simulation, Rediffusion Radio Systems and Rediffusion Intercom overtures.

Baring Brothers and Bear Stearns, merchant banks in London and New York respectively, will handle the sale. BET declined to say when it expected the businesses to fetch, but analysts' estimates ranged from £100 million to £170 million.

BET said the businesses would develop faster and be worth more to an owner in a related industry. It has had several approaches from potential buyers and the decision to sell had nothing to do with the stock market crash, said Mr Neil Ryder of BET.

BET is retaining four of its communications businesses whose activities link up with its core operations, particularly security services. It is also keeping its 29 per cent stake in Thames Television.

Rediffusion Simulation has about 35 per cent of the world's civil aviation flight simulator market and 40 per cent of the British military market. Its operating profit last year was £9.5 million on a turnover of £113 million and its order book tops £200 million.

RRS supplies electronic communication equipment for military and professional markets. Its operating profit last year was £1 million on a turnover of £14 million.



Surprising the City: Michael Marks (left), joint chief executive, Anthony Lewis, chairman, and Geoffrey Lederman, joint chief executive (Photograph by Harry Kerr)

## Smith New Court up 209%

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Smith New Court, the independent equity market-making firm, yesterday announced a 209 per cent jump in first-half profits — from £3.9 million to £10.5 million — equal to the total profit for the whole of last year.

City analysts found the result even more astonishing because it includes the first week of the stock market crash, as well as losses on obligations which fall in the second half.

Mr Anthony Lewis, the

chairman, said the figures included a £6.8 million provision for underwriting losses on the BP share issue and client defaults, including one large default.

The result contrasts with other leading market-making firms which have admitted to large losses during the share collapse. Smith specializes in British and overseas equity trading, but has no involvement in the gilt-edged market.

Mr Lewis added that since the crash, the company had

been trading at a net profit, including expenses, but would not say what it was. He also said markets were too volatile to forecast full-year results.

"We have proved it is possible to make money in difficult as well as good times. We did not foresee the market crash, but our business is perhaps better spread than some other market-makers."

The interim dividend rises by 0.5p to 2.5p, as fully diluted earnings per share more than doubled from 6.4p to 13.8p.

## Stock Exchange in SIB application

By Lawrence Laver

The Stock Exchange yesterday lodged its formal application to the Securities and Investments Board for recognition as a Recognized Investment Exchange under the Financial Services Act.

The Act obliges the Exchange to satisfy the SIB that it has adequate capital resources and rules to regulate an ordered market for dealing in securities such as shares, gilts and options.

Its application was accompanied by its draft rulebook, which closely follows existing

Stock Exchange rules. The final version is expected to be ready at the beginning of February.

Existing Stock Exchange members will have automatic access to the new RIE when the Act comes into effect on April 1 — provided that by that time they have been accepted by a self-regulating organization (SRO) as fit and proper to carry out investment business. Any firms not authorized by an SRO will have to withdraw from the Exchange.

The draft rules submitted by the Exchange strengthen the existing rules against market-rigging. The general rule against rigging the market has been supplemented by setting out specific practices that are prohibited, such as putting false prices of bargains into the Exchange's Seq system.

The rules relating to the settlement of bargains have also been strengthened recently. These now require firms to exercise control over the number of bargains left unsettled and the length of

time that they remain unsettled.

The Exchange has already given its consent to Task Force additional investigation and enforcement powers.

In addition, the rules relating to matched bargains of shares, under the Exchange's Rule 535 (2) procedure, have been relaxed. Fresh permission does not need to be sought from the Exchange to deal under this rule if Rule 535 (2) dealings in the shares concerned have taken place within the past year.

## Making room for BP

With those partly-paid BP shares still hovering ominously near the 70p safety net being offered by the Bank of England, I hear that the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is well-prepared for a sudden influx of BP share certificates. A sharp-eyed Times reporter, wandering the echoing marble corridors of the lavishly decorated, fortress-like Bank yesterday, came across a vast but unoccupied room, with its painted walls. Not only did it lack of decor contrast sharply with all the rooms nearby, but he was further intrigued to observe that it was furnished solely with rows of uninhabited school-style desks and stacks of empty plastic crates. On the door, in letters a foot high, was a sign declaring the room's purpose to be... "BP Operations." Employing the Boy Scout's motto, a Bank spokesman tells me: "It is prudent to be prepared," before going on to explain that the room is, in fact, Some Hall, named after the architect, Sir John Soane, and one of the most historic in the building. Previously used as a library, it is undergoing refurbishment before being put to some other use.

## Lucky guess

What hope have analysts got? Following yesterday's record interim results from Smith New Court, the independent securities company, Tony Lewis, its chairman, was asked about the likely outcome for the full year. "It's impossible

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### The prints of darkness

These all-knowing, all-seeing individuals who compile the Stock Exchange calendar — the small desk-top version which sits on most dealing terminals in the City, reminding market men of account periods, settlement days and even the date of the Boat Race — seem sure that the bear market is going to continue for

another month or two at least. Its saying for this month is the old Scottish proverb: "Money is fat and meant to be killed up." The motto for next month is even more damning. Quoting Oscar Wilde, it says: "The salesman knows nothing of what he is selling, save that he is charging a great deal too much for it."

### Car wars

If you, too, are exasperated by London's appalling traffic jams, then on your next visit to the US perhaps you should treat yourself to a novel dashboard toy known as The Revenger. A small black box, it sells for £20 (£11), and at the push of a button it emits a range of ear-piercing noises — which resemble a grenade launcher, machine guns or, if you wish, death rays (what-ever they might sound like). Designer David McMahon, president of a North Carolina company called Express Yourself, claims that it has important therapeutic qualities, allowing frustrated drivers to vent their anger. Just imagine it... next time that boy racer in the GTI cuts you out, you can zap him.



Some stockbroking firms are said to be handing out special DCM awards to some of their staff. Apparently it stands for "Don't come in on Monday."

### A contract for Killer

Richard "Killer" Kilsby is a man to watch. At 36, he is leaving accountancy firm Price Waterhouse next month — the youngest PW partner ever to quit — to join Charterhouse, the merchant banking arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Having helped to set up the London International Financial Futures Exchange as part of a PW consulting project, Kilsby is an expert in capital markets. His job at Charterhouse will be to establish a new department offering financial engineering and exposure management products — short-term paper, swaps and the like — for commerce. "It will fill a gap in the UK banking market," he tells me.

Other facets of Kilsby's previous life, as an inspector under the Banking Act and his partial responsibility for the investigation into Johnson Matthey, bode still greater things to come.

Carol Leonard

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'HERR BECK will be with you in two minutes,' smiled our host, politely closing the doors.

FOR 119 seconds we sat in spacious comfort, peering out morosely at the rain sweeping across the Erha-Lessien test track.

THEN AN immaculate Herr Beck was settling easily behind the wheel. We were off.

'GOOD MORNING,' we chorused, resisting the temptation to add 'Sir.'

THE PROJECT manager, responsible for the overall production of the car we were now sitting in, nodded briefly.

whistle sounded like an amplified wheezy kettle. It was very quiet. A whisper from the wind-screen wipers, the murmur of the road...

'I AM increasing the speed,' continued our driver, taking us up to 201.6 kilometres per hour. The engine maintained its gentle hum, Herr Beck his soft, businesslike manner.

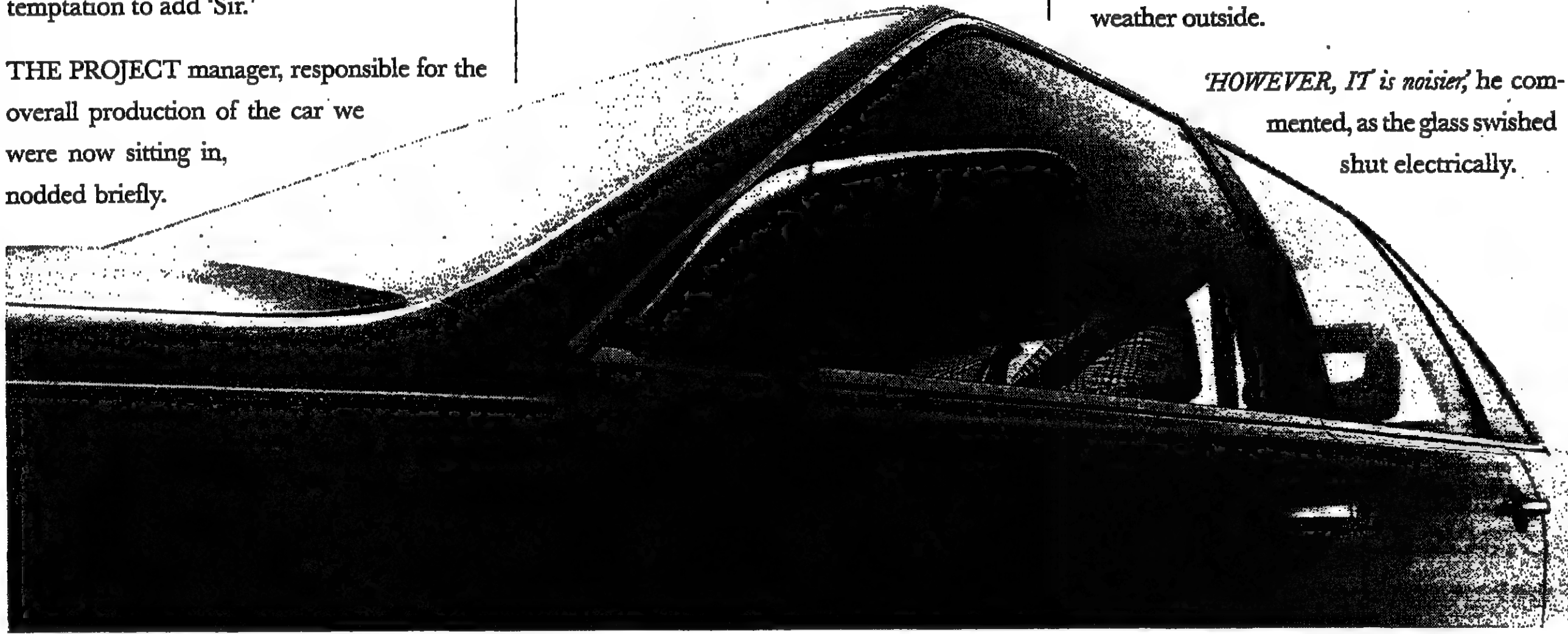
'THE REASONS for the lack of noise are threefold; a

HERR BECK looked thoughtful. We looked askance.

*'THE IMPLICATIONS of transverse drag were also considered. The Audi 100 is less susceptible to cross wind buffeting than virtually any other car. Additionally, with a front window open, the overall Cd factor is only increased by a negligible 0.008%.'*

HERR BECK opened his window to demonstrate, and we were suddenly aware of the brutal weather outside.

*'HOWEVER, IT is noisier,' he commented, as the glass swished shut electrically.*



'GENTLEMEN, YOU will observe we are moving at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour. This was achieved in 9.8 seconds.'

TAKEN ABACK, we observed. Closely.

*'THERE ARE two points to note. The first is that the intermediate acceleration times of the 100 are, in each case, at least two seconds faster than any of its nearest rivals. Consequently, power is readily available when it is most needed; accelerating away from trouble, for example.'*

INVOLUNTARILY WE turned our heads. Only damp and rapidly receding test track met our gaze.

*'The second is that'...*

'YES?' WE breathed.

*...IT IS extremely quiet.'*

MY COMPANION'S attempt at an awe-inspired

*five-cylinder, fuel-efficient engine (delivering 42.8 of your miles to the gallon)\*; a coefficient of drag of 0.32; and a meticulous approach to sound proofing.'*

WE SUSPECTED that he was about to elaborate. He was.

*'I AM sure you are familiar with the five-cylinder engine, pioneered by Audi. The aerodynamic drag factor of the Audi 100 was also an unbeaten first. We are flattered that so many manufacturers have attempted to emulate our aerodynamic designs.'*

*THE BASIC shape of the car was devised in over 2000 hours of experiment in a wind tunnel, using a scale model of 1:4. This achieved a Cd of below 0.25. On a prototype, Dr Leie assessed the implication for styling, where the drag power, expressed as  $P_L = 12.9 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot c_w \cdot A \cdot v \cdot (v + v_0)^2$ , would not affect the Cd factor by more than 0.05. The result is the flush mounting of headlamps and windscreen, and the specially developed wipers and mirrors, as you see.'*

CALM RESTORED, our man went on. *'While the Cd factor is primarily responsible for the reduced cabin noise, hydraulically dampened engine mounts account for the lack of vibration. The acoustic transmission to the driver's seat is currently around 77 decibels. At, say, 100 kilometres per hour it would be less than normal speech levels. This is helped by special gear box and engine insulation materials developed by Herr Kuiper, our manager of Physics.'*

A REMINISCENCE of G-clamps, bunsen burners and physics lessons was interrupted by the inevitable question.

*'SO, GENTLEMEN, any queries?'*

THANKS TO the Audi 100, we couldn't pretend to have missed a word. Say something, I thought to myself.

'THERE IS one thing, Herr Beck,' I ventured. 'Could you tell me the name of your tailor?'

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# Cockfield hits at Minister's 'failure to grasp EEC plan'

By Colin Narborough

Lord Cockfield, the vice-president of the European Community Commission, yesterday delivered a stinging attack on the Government's failure to understand the issues involved in trying to create a truly common market.

He implied, without naming names, that Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had shown a total misunderstanding of the Brussels proposals on taxation.

But the former Tory minister made clear that, despite Britain's endless wrangles with the EEC, completion of a single EEC market by the target year of 1992 provided it with an opportunity to play a lead role.

"History showed that Britons have both valour and vision," he said. "The time to exercise them is here and now."

Lord Cockfield, speaking in London at a meeting of the European League for Economic Co-operation, said Britain had to accept that if it belonged to a community it was the community interest that had to prevail.

"One cannot simply pick and choose. Do the things you like and block the things you don't," he said. "The single market had



"Time to exercise valour and vision": Lord Cockfield, vice-president of EEC Commission

to be effected completely and effectively, or fail totally.

Europe was moving inexorably towards economic union after the last years of the 1970s and early 1980s. The goal was embodied in European law, making arguments about infringements of sovereignty irrelevant, he said.

The Commission had tabled two-thirds of the 300 proposals needed for creating a single market. The Council of Ministers had approved 70 of these, but had made "very disappointing" progress this year, Lord Cockfield said.

He hoped that by the end of next year proposals covering

important parts of the internal market programme would be fully adopted, including those covering standards, public procurement, mutual recognition of qualifications, and financial services.

The aim was that proposals on "fiscal approximation" should be adopted too, as this

was an essential and integral element of a truly common market. "One cannot complete the internal market unless there is a substantial measure of approximation of indirect taxes."

Last week, Lord Young said the Government wanted to emphasize the economic benefits of a single market in goods and services, not harmonizing taxes. He cited the US as evidence of a market giving economic benefits, despite taxes and excise duties varying from state to state.

Lord Cockfield said the American case in fact supported the Commission's approach. Because there were no fiscal frontiers inside the US, market forces ensured that in general there were no substantial differences between neighbouring states either.

He said the difficulties Britain had on the taxation question were political rather than economic.

Referring to Lord Young, he said one minister had been reported as saying he would oppose any attempt to harmonize away national differences.

This was a "total misunderstanding," he said. "Far from proposing excessive harmonization, the Commission has consistently proposed much less than many member states would want."

## OECD in sharp criticism of Ireland

Paris (Reuters) — The Irish government should take radical measures to reform its economy and reverse a trend towards lower growth and higher unemployment, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) says in a report yesterday.

In a sharply critical review of the Irish performance, the 24-nation economic think tank calls for urgent action to slash the Irish budget deficit by cutting government subsidies and social spending.

"Radical measures are now needed," the OECD says, predicting zero economic growth in Ireland next year and unemployment close to one in five of the workforce.

"The present blanket coverage provided by social welfare transfers cannot be sustained," the report says. It urges greater selection to ensure that care is concentrated on the neediest sections.

It also suggests charges for certain key public services such as health and education, and criticizes the fact that government intervention in the economy is much more extensive than in most other Western countries. "Prospects of restoring better performance depend crucially on reducing the government budget deficit, which is still almost 11 per cent of GNP."

## TR Technology poised to attack Berkeley Govett

By Lawrence Lever

The board of TR Technology, the investment trust managed by Touche Renmant, is set to launch a stinging attack on Berkeley Govett, the financial services house which is stalking the £320 million trust.

TRT has commissioned an audit by one of the top eight firms of accountants into the performance of the unquoted investments which Berkeley Govett introduced into the trust.

It is expected to circularize shareholders in the trust with the results, which allege that the performance of the Berkeley investments has been significantly below average, producing an average internal rate of return of around 7 per cent.

Mr Arthur Truget, the chairman of Berkeley, yesterday hit back, claiming that Berkeley's overall record for all its unquoted placements — rather than those taken up by TRT — was better than TRT's performance.

Berkeley is advising Firmindale Investments, a mysterious Jersey company, which has spent about £90 million accumulating a 27 per cent stake in TRT and requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting.

Firmindale wants the management of TRT transferred either in whole or in part to Berkeley Govett. It is showing

a substantial paper loss on its investment in TRT. Berkeley has denied being involved in the financing of Firmindale, which has been provided by 10 ten institutions and banks, one having a 20 per cent stake in Berkeley.

Yesterday, further details emerged showing another link between the Jersey company and Berkeley. Firmindale is owned by a Hong Kong-registered company called Reserve Assets. Inquiries by The Times have revealed one other occasion where Reserve Assets has been used in relation to Berkeley.

In December 1986, the British Steel Pension fund, which had opposed Berkeley's takeover of John Govett, the fund management group, sold its 25 per cent stake in Govett Atlantic, an investment trust managed by John Govett.

The stake was picked up by a Jersey-registered company, Sequoia Investments, which has a small share capital and appears to have been set up specifically for the purpose of buying the stake.

Reserve Assets is a big shareholder in this company. One of its fellow shareholders in Sequoia has the same registered office as Berkeley Govett. Mr Arthur Truget, the Berkeley chairman, yesterday denied Reserve Assets was his own vehicle.

## Gold group to upgrade US mines

By Colin Campbell

Gold Fields Mining Corporation, the North American division of Consolidated Gold Fields, has upgraded the reserves of its Mesquite and Chimney Creek mines, and says it is continuing to look for more North American mines.

At Mesquite, in California, an additional \$21 million (£11.6 million) will be required to expand production from 3 million to 4.5 million tons of ore a year. Total reserves are now estimated at 70 million tons, containing 2.8 million ounces of gold.

The Chimney Creek project in Nevada, involving a total investment of \$91 million (£50.4 million), is within budget and ahead of schedule. Commercial production is due to begin in January. The initial estimate of reserves has been raised from 1.3 million ounces of gold to 1.83 million ounces. In addition, a deposit two miles south of the existing plant has inferred reserves of 690,000 ounces.

## Quota cut agreed for coffee

By Colin Narborough

The International Coffee Organization executive board has agreed to allow only one more cut in export quotas during the current quarter, instead of the two cuts demanded by the coffee-exporting countries.

The agreement came after two days of discussions to reconcile diverging interpretations of the arrangements for determining how fast cuts could be implemented.

After the organization restored quotas this autumn, it made an early cut of 1.5 million 60-kg bags on October 6 to help restore prices.

While announcing the accord on a second cut, it was made clear that this could only be put into effect if the ICO indicator price falls from its present level of nearly 116 cents per pound to 115 cents or less, and stays there for 10 market days.

The global quota for the year ending next September is 36.5 million bags.

## APPOINTMENTS

## Executive director named at Midland

Midland Bank: Mr Eugene Lockhart becomes an executive director.

GRE Asset Management: Ms Caroline Burton becomes managing director.

Thorn EMI: Mr Michael Angus joins the board as a non-executive director.

Charterhouse Bank: Mr Richard Kilsby is made a managing director.

Association of Investment Trust Companies: Mr Colin Black is made chairman. Mr Michael Hart and Mr Neil Young become deputy chairmen.

Westland Group: Mr Christopher Bunker is made group finance director and Dr John Lehman a director.

GRE (UK): Mr Sidney Hopkins is made managing director.

Autolease: Mr John Haynes is made sales and marketing director.

Fuller Peiser: Mr Keith Blake, Mr Brian Martin and Mr Melvyn Pratt join the partnership.

CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank Holdings: Mr Vernon Partridge joins the board.

Asda-MFI Group: Mr John Hardman becomes executive chairman. Mr Edward Lea and Mr Tony Campbell become joint managing directors. Asda Stores.

ESAB AB: Dr Bob John becomes group marketing director.

Interlex SM: Mr Colin Hazell and Mr Derek Lloyd-Rees become directors.

Copthorne Hotels: Mr Larry Lowth and Mr Peter Taylor are made joint chief executives.

Hays Chemical: Mr Graham Green is made chief executive, distribution division.

J Bibby & Sons: Mr DB Macgregor and Mr TM Wainwright join the board.

Istel: Mr Chris Chiles is made managing director.

Folkles Group: Mr Roger Derwent joins as finance director.

Liverpool Cotton Association: Mr Arthur Aldcroft is made president and Mr Paul Southworth vice-president.



Caroline Burton, managing director GRE Asset Management

Weir Systems: Mr Tom Mill has been appointed managing director.

Belhaven Brewery: Mr Peter Shaw becomes regional sales director for London and the Home Counties.

Hadrian Trustees: Ms Fiona Goulbourne and Ms Beryl Duke are now executive directors.

Hammerston Property Investment and Development: Mr RS Johnson and Mr JMD Scott will be executive directors from January 1. Mr Alexander Scott Bell joins the board as a non-executive director from January 1. Mr RJC Richards, Mr Michael Skudder and Mr GH Wright become directors of Hammerston UK Properties.

Balfour Beatty: Mr N Ashley becomes managing director of Balfour Beatty Construction International. Mr DW Cawthra managing director of Balfour Beatty Construction and Mr I Carr managing director of Balfour Beatty Power.

Russell Reynolds Associates: Mr Holson Brown Jr has been appointed president and chief operating officer, succeeding Mr Ferdinand Nadherny who becomes a vice-chairman.

SJ Berwin & Co: Mr Russell Mischon and Mr Adrian Shipwright join the partnership.

Central Capital Mortgage Corporation: Mr Brian Holmes becomes managing director.

Mega Group: Mr Bill Cadogan is made group managing director.

# Low risk drivers should not pay high risk premiums.

If you are a mature, considerate and experienced driver — 50 years of age or over, you probably make few, if any, claims on your motor insurance.

But the chances are, that you are paying far too much for your motor insurance. Because, it's a sad fact that the ever increasing cost of insurance premiums is directly linked to the ever increasing cost and number of claims.

Surely you deserve a much better deal? Royal Insurance agree — wholeheartedly.

That's why we introduced CarShield 50, a unique policy that recognises your driving record and rewards you with low-cost, better value, motor insurance.

A policy that on the one hand can cut your premiums dramatically and on the other, give you a wide range of valuable benefits.

But best of all, CarShield 50 is from Royal Insurance, Britain's largest U.K. based International insurance company with over 140 years experience and offices throughout the country. You can be certain of immediate, expert and friendly help and a fast, fair, claims settlement.

## AND HERE ARE SOME OF THE REAL VALUE-FOR-MONEY BENEFITS YOU GET WITH ROYAL CARSHIELD 50.

Free 24 Hour Roadside Windscreen Replacement Service from Autoglass. And it won't affect your No Claim discount. — A real worry off your mind

A Nationwide Recommended Repairs Scheme. With over 1,000 repair specialists who give a fast and reliable service. — First class workmanship

No Claim Discount Protection Option. You won't lose your valuable No Claim discount even if you are to blame for up to two accidents in five years. — You've earned it — don't lose it!

Monthly Premiums. You can pay your premiums monthly by direct debit. — A convenient way to pay

Plus Extrahelp

## A VALUABLE OPTIONAL BENEFIT

Accidents can happen — even to the most experienced drivers — and it's most frustrating if you are not to blame; especially as you could still be out of pocket for such costs as the "excess" which your policy may require you to pay. Could you afford the time or cost of legal proceedings to reclaim these from the guilty party?

## HERE'S HOW EXTRAHELP TAKES THE STRAIN

As soon as you contact us, following an accident, we will arrange for IRPC (Legal and Personal Insurance Services) Ltd. who are specialists in the field, to liaise on your behalf and make every reasonable effort to recover your uninsured motoring losses — including:

- Your policy excess
- Cost of car hire
- Compensation for loss of use of your car
- Claims for damages following death or injury

Extrahelp also includes a vehicle recovery service — when National Breakdown recover your accident immobilised vehicle you qualify for a free emergency car hire facility from Swan National.

And when you choose Extrahelp you also qualify for free legal advice providing immediate and confidential access by telephone 24 hours a day, to a team of legal consultants who will give advice and guidance on any private legal problem.

These valuable extra benefits cost just £750 a year or 66p a month — for each car you insure with Royal CarShield 50.

## FREE ANTI-THEFT SECURITY WITH CARSHIELD

Take out a CarShield policy after returning this coupon and you will be offered FREE Ringmark® etching of your car registration number on all windows. This permanent Anti-Theft Protection offer is worth at least £5 to you.

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POST TODAY TO ROYAL INSURANCE (UK) LTD., CARSHIELD 50, FREEPOST, LIVERPOOL L69 4BW.

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Fiat Uno 45	Monthly from	£5.30
Vauxhall Astra 1.1L	Monthly from	£6.18
Ford Fiesta 1.3S	Monthly from	£7.51
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In London and surrounding areas and certain cities, you may not qualify if your car is not garaged overnight.

Send now for your free quotation without obligation. Reply to this advertisement now, and we guarantee your quotation until 1st February 1988.

If you are between 50 and 75 years of age — complete the coupon remembering to include your date of birth. Check if you qualify for CarShield 50. You must certainly do if you can tick these 8 boxes.

1. I am between 50 and 75 years of age and in good health.
2. I require comprehensive cover but will pay the first £50 of accidental damage claims.
3. I use my car for social, domestic and pleasure purposes or personally for business but not for commercial travelling, hiring, racing or motor trade use.
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5. I have earned 4 years No Claim discount in the UK.
6. I am free of convictions (including endorsable Fixed Penalty offences) for the last 5 years (up to 2 speeding convictions or 2 parking offences can be ignored).
7. I drive a family saloon, hatchback or estate car which is not modified from the makers' standard specification.
8. I understand that in addition to myself, my husband/wife (if aged 35 to 75) and one named driver (if aged 50 to 75) only may drive — providing their driving records match mine.

Please post my FREE CarShield 50 quotation completely without obligation whatsoever.

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Usual Insurance Address (if diff) \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model of car \_\_\_\_\_  
Model (state if GT, GL etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Engine Capacity \_\_\_\_\_ Year of make \_\_\_\_\_

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CTMS 0107



## NEW YORK

## Dow steadies after early sharp fall

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street share prices stabilized at a sharply lower level in early trading yesterday, following an initial sell-off due to a much larger-than-expected October trade deficit.

But traders said they were optimistic, noting that the selling in the morning was orderly and the market was expected to restrain its decline.

"There may be some more downward probing," one trader said, "but after the first half-hour, I saw some bargain-hunters come in."

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 49 points in the first 15 minutes, stabilized at about 1,866.71, down 35.81, when the trans-

port indicator was down 11.72 to 695.71 and the utilities average down 3.08 to 174.73.

Declining shares led advancing issues by almost 10-to-one on volume of 43 million shares.

The US trade deficit, which totalled \$17.63 billion (\$9.68 billion), surprised even the most pessimistic forecasters. Most economists were expecting a deficit of \$14.5 billion to \$15 billion.

The board of Schlumberger Ltd has authorized a new share repurchase programme which allows the company to buy up to 20 million shares on the open market.

The company has about 276 million shares outstanding.

## Nikkei surges 395 points as institutions come back

Tokyo (Reuters) — Share prices closed sharply higher in modest volume yesterday, as optimism after Wall Street's third consecutive rally on Wednesday attracted buying from long-absent Japanese institutions, brokers said.

The Nikkei index surged 395.14 points, or 1.7 per cent, to close at 23,280.84, its highest point of the day. On Wednesday it fell 62.64. Advances led declines by a margin of nearly seven to two in turnover of 600 million shares, against 500 million on Wednesday.

A Daiwa Securities broker said the first signs in about two weeks of significant buying by trust funds, insurance

companies and banks excited other investors.

"The institutions are only dipping their toes in, but these guys have big feet," said one foreign broker.

Foreigners were net buyers of Tokyo stocks through leading Japanese brokerages for the third consecutive day.

Wariness before the US October trade data, and a prevalent belief that the 23,300 mark on the Nikkei average is a resistance point, moderated optimism.

"A US trade deficit of \$15 billion has been discounted by the market," said a senior Nomura Securities broker. A plunge in Japan's November

trade surplus lifted general goodwill.

Shares of securities houses gained sharply because as market volume lifts off rock-bottom levels and gloom clears from world stock markets, brokers earn more. Nomura rose ¥90 to ¥3,200 (¥13.44) and Nikko ¥80 to ¥1,710.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone fell ¥20,000 to ¥2,420 million, its lowest level since the government sold 1.95 million of the shares at ¥2,555 million each in November.

Insurance, communications, pharmaceutical, bank, credit-lease, real estate and general manufacturing

## Wharf profits up 63% at half-time

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Wharf (Holdings), the property, hotel and transport group run by Sir Yue-Kong Pao, has reported net interim profits up 63 per cent to HK\$645.4 million (£46 million) for the six months to end-September.

The profits include a one-off boost of HK\$205.3 million from the sale of Wheelock Marden, its trading and services subsidiary, and its Hong Kong Realty property business. Both were sold earlier this year to Sir Yue-Kong's World International group, which is about 70 per cent owned by the Pao family.

Mr Peter Woo, the chairman of Wharf, said all core operating divisions had "performed satisfactorily during the first six months," but he was cautious about the coming year.

"If the US economy goes into a slowdown next year,

Hong Kong's trading and tourist activities will be affected accordingly," he said.

"The group is, therefore, taking the cautious attitude towards planning for 1988."

Turnover dropped from HK\$1.8 billion to HK\$1.2 billion, as a result of the sales of Wheelock Marden and Hong Kong Realty.

Wharf's hotels business has benefited from a tourist boom, with visitors flocking to the Crown Colony to take advantage of its weak dollar.

Mr Woo said that compared with the same period last year, the total net contributions from the property, hotels, terminal and transport divisions had improved 38 per cent.

The interim dividend is being raised from 9 cents a share to 10 cents.

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

For December 1987, the following are the traditional options for the month of December 1987. The options are for the month of December 1987. The options are for the month of December 1987.

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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## FRANKFURT

Prices firm in limited buying

(Reuters) — West German shares ended firmer after investors indulged in limited buying, encouraged by the stable dollar and by hopes that the United States trade figures would show a falling deficit.

The dollar was fixed higher, at DM1.6617 after closing at DM1.6590 on Wednesday.

The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, rose to 1,317.1 from Wednesday's 1,311.1.

The Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index ended at 277.56, after Wednesday's final 273.21.

In banks, Deutsche rose to 405 points, up 8.50 on the day. Dresdner gained 6.50 to 237.50 and Commerzbank six to 226. Chemicals saw smaller gains. BASF rose 2.90 to 252.20, Bayer climbed 4.70 to 260.50 and Hoechst edged 2.10 higher to 256. Schering, the pharmaceuticals company, shed 8.50 to 362.50.

Among car-makers, Daimler climbed 12 points to 617.50, VW added 4.80 to 227 and BMW rose 11 to 442. Electrical Siemens edged 4.70 to 379.80, while AEG rose 4.50 to 225.50. Hi-tech Nixdorf firm seven, to 556. Insurers were mixed, with Allianz 62 points higher at 1,192 and Aachener and Muenchener 14 lower at 556.

Engineering MAN rose 7.90 higher at 128.40 marks.

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## Law Report December 11 1987 House of Lords

## Journalist liable to punishment for concealing source of leak

In re an Inquiry under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Goff of Chieveley

[Speeches December 10]

A financial journalist who refused to disclose the source of information contained in two newspaper articles to inspectors inquiring into whether any contravention of the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985 had occurred did not have a reasonable excuse for so doing where such disclosure was necessary for the prevention of crime.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the journalist, Mr Jeremy Warner, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Lloyd and Sir George Waller) (The Times May 7, 1987) who had allowed an appeal by the inspectors from Mr Justice Hoffmann (The Times April 1, 1987).

Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC and Miss Adrienne Page for Mr Warner; Mr John Mummery for the inspectors.

LORD GRIFFITHS said that on December 12, 1986, the inspectors had been appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under section 177 of the Financial Services Act 1986 to hold an inquiry into suspected leaks of price-sensitive information

about take-over bids from the Office of Fair Trading, the Department of Trade and Industry or the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The information had concerned in some cases the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading to the secretary of state as to whether to refer a bid to the commission and in the others the contents of unpublished reports by the commission.

Such information was "price-sensitive" because the usual effect of the reference of a take-over bid to the commission was to depress the price of the target company, and in cases where the bid was successful, to increase the price of the target company.

The conditions on which a bid was approved were also likely to affect the price of the shares of the companies involved.

It had appeared that that price-sensitive information was being leaked to people who were using it to speculate on the Stock Exchange, and that the inspectors were dealing with a criminal offence prohibited by section 2 of the 1985 Act.

Mr Warner had written two articles, in The Times on November 8, 1985 and in The Independent on October 19, 1986, from which it appeared that he had been in possession of leaked information. The inspectors had naturally wished to

question him about the sources from which he had obtained the information on which he had based those articles.

He had agreed that he had written them after consulting sources but had refused to identify his sources or to answer any questions that might directly identify them. He had taken his stance on the principle that a journalist could not disclose his sources.

The inspectors had referred the matter to the High Court pursuant to section 178 of the 1985 Act, which provided: "(1) If any person—(a) refuses to comply with any request under section 177(3), for assistance in connection with the investigation; or (b) refuses to answer any question put to him by the inspectors... with respect to any matter relevant for establishing whether or not any suspected contravention has occurred, the inspectors may certify that fact in writing to the court and the court may inquire into the case."

"(2) If... the court is satisfied that he did without reasonable excuse refuse to comply with such a request or answer any such question, the court may—(a) punish him in like manner as if he had been guilty of contempt of the court...."

Whether or not Mr Warner had a reasonable excuse for refusing to answer the inspectors' questions depended on the true construction of section 10 of the Contempt of

Court Act 1981 and a consideration of the evidence before the High Court.

Section 10 provided: "No court may require a person to disclose, or is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it be established that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

The genesis and purpose of section 10 had recently been discussed in House of Lords in Secretary of State for Defence v Guardian Newspapers Ltd (1985) AC 339 and in the judgment of Lord Justice Slade in the present case.

It was to recognize and establish that in the interests of a free effective press it was in the public interest that a journalist should be entitled to protect his sources unless some other overriding public interest required him to reveal them. It was also to ensure that a journalist was *prima facie* entitled to refuse to reveal his source and a court might make no order that had the effect of compelling him to do so unless such an order was justified by the public interest. It was necessary under one or the other heads of public interest identified in the section.

In his Lordship's view, sec-

tion 10 had no direct application to a reference under section 178, but Parliament had recognized the privilege of a journalist to protect his source and spelled out the limitations of that privilege in section 10.

When deciding on the limits of the privilege, in whatever circumstances it was claimed, a court should follow the guidance of Parliament and apply the test provided in section 10.

His Lordship could conceive of extreme cases in which the judge might properly refuse to order a journalist to reveal his sources even where the party seeking disclosure had discharged the burden on him of satisfying the judge that the identification of his sources was necessary for the prevention of crime; if, for instance, the crime was of a trivial nature or, at the other end of the scale, the journalist's life might be imperilled if he revealed his source.

However, it was not suggested that this was such an extreme case, and Mr Warner accepted that, if it had been established that the identification of his sources was necessary for the prevention of crime, he had no reasonable excuse for refusing to do so.

What, then, was meant by the words "necessary... for the prevention of... crime" in section 10? His Lordship did not think that much light was thrown on that question by an elaborate discussion of the meaning of the word

"necessary", which was a word in common usage in everyday speech with which everyone was familiar. Like all words, it would take colour from its context.

His Lordship doubted if it was possible to go further than to say that "necessary" had a meaning that lay somewhere between "indispensable" on the one hand and "useful" or "expedient" on the other and to leave it to the judge to decide towards which end of the scale of meaning he would place it on the facts of any particular case. The nearest paraphrase that his Lordship could suggest was "really needed".

The words "prevention of crime" could be taken to mean more than one construction. The judge had adopted a narrow construction for which Mr Warner contended. He had held that "it must appear probable that the disclosure of his sources by the journalist would be necessary for the prevention of crime".

Later, he had said: "The facts to which the inspectors deposed do not therefore in my judgment show a probability that the disclosure of his sources by Mr Warner can prevent further insider dealing."

No one could be so optimistic as to believe that any measure would ever prevent crime, including "insider dealing", being committed in the future.

Mr Kentridge had submitted that that narrow construction meant that "prevention of crime" was limited to a situa-

tion in which the identification of the source would allow steps to be taken to prevent the commission of a particular identifiable future crime or crimes.

The phrase "prevention of crime" carried, to his Lordship's mind, very different overtones from "prevention of a crime" or even "prevention of crimes".

There were frequent articles and programmes in the media on the prevention of crime. The subject on those occasions was discussed from many points of view including the social background in which crime bred, detection, deterrence, retribution, punishment, rehabilitation and so forth.

The prevention of crime in that broad sense was a matter of public and vital interest to any civilized society. Crime was endemic in society and would probably never be eradicated, but its commission was essential. If crime got the upper hand and became the rule rather than the exception, the collapse of society would swiftly follow.

By identifying "prevention of crime" as one of the heads of public interest to which the journalist's privilege might occasionally have to yield, his Lordship was satisfied that Parliament had used the phrase in its widest possible, though natural meaning rather than in the restricted sense for which Mr Warner contended.

In the light of the inspectors' report it was to be hoped that

steps could be taken towards stamping out this form of insider dealing by exposing and perhaps punishing both those who leaked the information and those who traded on it and by considering further measures that could be taken to prevent future leaks and insider trading.

Mr Warner himself had recognized that the inspectors were engaged on an investigation of a criminal nature, and his Lordship had no doubt that the inquiry was being undertaken for the "prevention of crime" within the meaning of section 10.

He agreed with the Court of Appeal that Mr Warner's evidence was necessary, or to use the phrase, really needed, for the inspectors for the purpose of their inquiry the aim of which was the prevention of crime.

For those reasons, he would dismiss the appeal and direct that the case be remitted to the Chancery Division of the High Court so that a judge of that division might consider the question of punishment. It would not be appropriate for the Court of Appeal to inflict punishment, for that would deprive Mr Warner of his right of appeal against any punishment inflicted.

Lord Keith, Lord Roskill and Lord Goff agreed and Lord Oliver delivered a concurring opinion.

Solicitors: Oswald Hickson, Collier & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

## Stud buildings are not agricultural for rating

Hemmens (Valuation Officer) v Whitsbury Farm and Stud Ltd

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Goff of Chieveley

[Speeches December 10]

To be exempt from rating as an agricultural building under section 26(4)(a) of the General Rate Act 1967 a building had to be ancillary or complementary to the agricultural purpose of the land on which it stood. Accordingly, the ratepayers' stud buildings used for the breeding, rearing and keeping of thoroughbred horses grazed on the admittedly agricultural land attached to them were not exempt.

Not were they exempt by virtue of section 2(1)(a) of the Rating Act 1971 as being used for the keeping or breeding of livestock since the horses were not kept for the production of food or wool or for the purpose of their use in the farming of land and accordingly were not "livestock" within section 1(3).

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the ratepayers, Whitsbury Farm and Stud Ltd, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Balcombe) (The Times November 10, 1986; [1987] QB 390) who had dismissed their appeal from the Lands Tribunal.

Section 26 of the 1967 Act provides: "(1) No agricultural building shall be liable to be rated... (3)... the expression 'agricultural building'—(a) means any land used as arable meadow or pasture ground only... (4)... the expression 'agricultural building'—(a) means buildings (other than dwellings) occupied together with agricultural land... and used solely in connection with agricultural operations..."

Section 1 of the 1971 Act provides: "(3)... 'livestock' includes any animal kept for the production of food or wool or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land..."

Section 2 provides: "(1)... each of the following is an agricultural building... (a) any building used for the keeping or breeding of livestock..."

Mr William Glover, QC and Mr Alan Alabaster for the ratepayers; Mr Robert Carnwath

QC and Mr David Mole for the valuation officer.

LORD KEITH said that each of the ratepayers' four separate hereditaments comprised buildings of the sort usually to be found on stud farms, in particular stable blocks, loose boxes, covering yards and sheds, feeding boxes, veterinary rooms, hay stores and feed stores.

The basis of the valuation officer's concession that the land occupied with the buildings was agricultural was that it was used for grazing by horses.

He accepted that it was used as "pasture ground only" within the meaning of the expression in section 26(3)(a) of the 1967 Act notwithstanding that the horses put to pasture there were thoroughbreds that had nothing to do with farming in the ordinary understood sense of the word.

The concession was rightly made. There was nothing in section 26(3)(a) or elsewhere that expressly limited use as pasture ground so as to exclude the pasturing of animals that were not reared as food or for use in the farming of land, and his Lordship did not think that such an exclusion could be implied.

The other requirement of section 26(4)(a) if a building were to qualify as an agricultural building was that it should be used solely in connection with agricultural operations on the land.

The expression "agricultural operations" was nowhere defined. In its ordinary meaning it indicated operations connected with the raising or rearing of animals so as to produce or contribute to the production of "the means of human subsistence" (per Lord Robertson in *Hardie v Asessor for West Lothian* (1940) SC 329, 334).

In the present context, however, it must bear a meaning to some extent wider than that. Included in the meaning of agricultural land under section 26(3)(a) was land used for a plantation of trees and also certain cottage gardens and nursery grounds, where no doubt flowers and not any foodstuffs might be grown.

No operations that were agricultural in the ordinary sense of the word would be carried on such land, but one would not readily impute to Parliament an

intention to exclude from the benefit of derating buildings used solely in connection with the carrying out of silvicultural or horticultural activities on those categories of "agricultural" land.

Likewise, the special treatment for rating purposes of certain dwelling-houses provided for by section 26(2) would, considering that a wood was to be treated as a separate land, seem no less appropriate for a house occupied by a forestry worker than for one occupied by a farm worker.

The ratepayers had argued that, since the use of the land as pasture for thoroughbreds admittedly made it agricultural land, the activity of pasturing those horses was necessarily an agricultural operation; that operation was part of the activity of raising and keeping thoroughbreds; the same activity was what the buildings were used for; and hence the buildings were used, and solely used, in connection with an agricultural operation on the land.

It was necessary to give some consideration to the meaning of the words "in connection with" in *Clifford v Brixton* (1962) 1 WLR 1165, 1175 Lord Justice Donovan had said: "But the clear impression which I receive from the statutory language is that the buildings employed in the raising and keeping of horses are to be regarded as being an accessory use."

That passage had been approved by Viscount Dilhorne in *W & J R. Eastwood Ltd v Heron* (1971) 131 All ER 1111 and also per Lord Reid and Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest, at pp168 and 174. The concept was thus that of principal and accessory. The use of the agricultural land was contemplated as being the principal use and that of the buildings as being an accessory use.

In the present case, the use of the buildings was for all the most important operations connected with the breeding, rearing and keeping of thoroughbreds. The use of the agricultural land was for the pasturing of the same horses.

It was that use and nothing else that made the land agricultural within the definition. The use of the buildings was merely to assist the purpose for which the land was used, namely the breeding, rearing and keep-

ing of thoroughbreds. The use of the buildings did not serve the purpose for which the pasture land was used. It was not an auxiliary or accessory use in the sense of the words "in connection with".

His Lordship would therefore hold that the buildings were not used in connection with agricultural operations on the pasture land, and were certainly not used in connection with such operations.

It was next necessary to consider whether the buildings qualified as "agricultural buildings" under section 2(1)(a) of the 1971 Act as being buildings "used for the keeping or breeding of livestock". The words "used for the keeping or breeding of livestock" were in the meaning of "livestock". Did that word include thoroughbred horses?

The definition in section 1(3) was introduced by the words "includes". So the ratepayers' argument that the ordinary meaning of "livestock" was not thereby cut down and that the ordinary meaning of the word was wide enough to embrace any animal that grazed its sustenance from the land, in particular a thoroughbred horse, was not tenable.

There could be no doubt that in some cases the language of an "inclusive" definition, considered with the general context, could have the effect that the ordinary natural meaning of a word or expression was to some extent cut down.

The context here was agricultural, and the kind of mammals and birds mentioned in section 1(3) were those that one would expect to find on an ordinary farm. An intention to include animals that were regarded as ordinary farm creatures—for example, dogs, cats and mice—was not readily to be inferred.

On the other hand, the words "any mammal or bird" might well have been intended to cover the case where some unconventional type of mammal or bird came to be kept for food production—for example, a deer.

In *Belmont Farm Ltd v Minister of Housing and Local Government* (1962) 13 P & CR 417, a Divisional Court in construing the definition of "agriculture" contained in section 1(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 held that the words "the breeding and keeping of livestock" (including any creature kept for

the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of the land) did not cover the breeding and keeping of horses for showjumping.

Lord Parker, Lord Chief Justice, said (at p421-22): "Of course, on one view 'livestock' can be said to be used in contradiction to dead stock, and to include any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur... In some contexts that might be so, but it seems to me that in the context of agriculture, as here, it has some less extensive meaning..."

"I find it unnecessary to decide what it would mean if it stood alone because it does not stand alone, and the words in brackets that follow assist in determining what is meant by 'livestock'. The words are including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur..."

"Passing there, that is clearly an extension to cover, no doubt, an argument that, for instance, bees, possibly pheasants and fish are not livestock. It covers any creature kept for this purpose, and it goes on to say including any creature kept for the purpose of its use in the farming of land."

"Granting that the word 'including' has been used in an extensive sense, it seems to me nonsense for the draftsman to use the words 'including' if the word 'livestock' was intended to cover the keeping of any creature kept for its use in farming of land or not."

"It seems to me that those words show a clear intention that 'livestock', however it is interpreted, does not extend to the breeding and keeping of such animals as are kept for the purpose of their use in the farming of land."

That reasoning was equally applicable to section 1(3) of the 1971 Act, and his Lordship concluded that thoroughbreds horses did not fall within the test in section 1(3).

Lord Brandon, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff agreed and Lord Oliver delivered a concurring opinion.

Solicitors: Penningtons Ward Bowle & Partners; Lloyd, Newmarket; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

## Evidence need not accompany US extradition request

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Davidson Muir

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Macpherson

[Judgment December 7]

Article 8(2) of the United States Extradition Treaty 1972 (SI 1976 No 2144) only required the request for extradition to be made within a 60-day time limit and the fact that supporting evidence was not received within 60 days was irrelevant.

Article 7(3) of the Treaty only required the request to be accompanied with the relevant evidence at the time of the decision to commit and not at the time of the request.

Where an indictment was *prima facie* found in time within the meaning of title 18 of the US Code which provided for a limitation period of five years from the date of the offence, it was for the US District Court to determine whether the prosecution was time barred. It was inappropriate for English magistrates to usurp the American court's decision.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* by Downie Davidson Muir.

Article 7(3) of the 1972 Treaty provides: "If the request relates to an accused person, it must also be accompanied by a warrant of arrest issued... in the territory of the requesting party and by such evidence as, according to the law of the requesting party, would justify his commitment for trial." A person's application shall be set at liberty upon the expiration of sixty days from the date of his arrest if a request for his extradition shall not have been received...

Mr Edmund Lawson for the

applicant; Mr Gibson Grimfield for the US Government.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that Federal Grand Jury had returned a verdict on May 30, 1986 on charges against the applicant of various drug-related offences. The jury returned their verdict and it was sealed the same day by a federal magistrate.

On the same day a US district court issued a bench warrant for the applicant's arrest. He was arrested in England on July 13, 1987 on a provisional warrant pursuant to section 2(2) of the Extradition Act 1870.

Mr Lawson submitted that an affidavit of William Zimmerman which provided *prima facie* evidence against the applicant was inadmissible as it was not received in England within 60 days of his arrest. Mr Lawson relied on *Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Sofer* (1975) AC 11.

However, in that case the German Extradition Treaty (SI 1960 No 1375) provided the evidence be produced within two months. In the instant case, article 8(2) provided only that the request be received within 60 days, which it was.

Mr Lawson had sought to surmount that difficulty by arguing that article 7(3) provided the request should be accompanied with a warrant and supporting evidence.

His Lordship rejected Mr Lawson's argument that by reading article 7(3) and article 8(2) together the US authorities were obliged to submit their evidence in support of extradition within a 60-day time limit.

His Lordship found too subtle an argument Mr Lawson's proposition that until the evidence was received, the request was unaccompanied and therefore incomplete for the purposes of article 8(2).

The request only had to be accompanied at the time when the decision to commit was taken. If there were delay in furnishing the evidence, the applicant's remedy was to apply to the magistrates to fix a date.

Even if his Lordship were wrong on the first point, he would still hold there was sufficient evidence to justify commitment on the basis of an affidavit of a prosecutor who had pleaded guilty.

He referred in his affidavit to a meeting at which the applicant was present and agreed to smuggle cannabis during 1981. The applicant was arrested on June 6, 1981.

The relevance of that date was that it was less than five years later that a grand jury returned a verdict against the applicant.

Title 18 of the United States Code provided that no person should be prosecuted for an offence unless the indictment was found within five years of the offence being committed. The right of the applicant to rely on the time bar was expressly preserved by article 5 of the Treaty.

The point taken by Mr Lawson was that the indictment was not found when it was returned on May 30, 1986 as it was sealed on the same day by a federal magistrate and was not unsealed (made public) until April 23, 1987, outside the limitation period.

*Prima facie*, where an indictment was found in time it was for the US district court to determine whether the prosecution was time barred. It was inappropriate for English magistrates to usurp the US court's decision.

Mr Justice Macpherson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Compton Carr, DPP.

## Citizen has no right to see police reports

Regina v Director of Public Prosecutions, Ex parte Hallas

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Macpherson

[Judgment December 8]

Although an individual had a right to mount a private prosecution, there was no right of access to police statements, reports and photographs held by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for judicial review by Janet Elizabeth Hallas against the decision of the CPS in refusing to disclose police statements, reports and photographs relating to the death of her son David Richard Hallas.

Mr John Morris, QC and Mr Nigel Lithman for the applicant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Jeremy Gompertz for the DPP.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that at 11.20pm on September 1, 1986 the applicant's son had been tragically killed by a car, while riding his motor cycle.

The car was driven by Paul Clarke. After considering the case, the crown prosecutor dealing with the case charged Mr Clarke with driving with excess alcohol and careless driving.

Mrs Hallas contended that Mr Clarke ought to have been charged with causing death by reckless driving. She wrote to the CPS but they declined to change their mind.

Mrs Hallas wanted to see the documents in the case to give her solicitor and counsel to obtain advice as to whether to launch a private prosecution which she was entitled to do by virtue of section 6(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

His Lordship did not find it necessary to go into the reasons put forward by the DPP as to

why it was not in the public interest for the prosecution service to disclose such documents, since the application failed on a broader ground.

The Divisional Court could not see any basis for production of documents against the CPS any more than it could make an order against any member of the general public unless the applicant could show some right.

The fact an applicant might wish to see documents for perfectly legitimate purpose did not give rise to a right to see them.

The right to take a private prosecution was not in issue, but no right to have the papers was conferred by section 6(1) of the 1985 Act or anywhere else and such a right could not be implied.

Mr Justice Macpherson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mincoff Science & Gold, Newcastle upon Tyne; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Hazan

On a true construction of section 75(6) of the Housing Act 1974, "the certified date" in relation to a dwelling which was the subject of a home improvement grant under Part VII of the Act, as amended by section 107 of and schedule 12 to the Housing Act 1980, was the date on which the relevant work was completed to the standard required by the local authority, and not the date on which the local authority approved such work.

The Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls,

## Prosecuting counsel responsible for presentation of indictment

Regina v Newland

Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Jones and Lord Justice Leonard

[Judgment December 3]

The defective drafting of indictments by crown court staff was giving cause for concern in view of the number of cases in which it occurred, and it was necessary for a re-statement to be made as to the responsibility for the ultimate presentation of the indictment to the court.

Lord Justice Watkins so stated on giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal when allowing an appeal by and quashing the convictions of Mark Anthony Newland on pleas of guilty at Chichester Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder Chapman) to one count of possessing cannabis resin and three counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment on the drugs count and consecutively to a total of nine months for the assaults.

Mr James Turner, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Charles Kemp for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the drugs offences, of which there were three counts in the indictment, and the assault offences were not remotely related in any sense.

The draftsman seemed not to have heard of the Indictments Rules (SI 1971 No 1253) and the Indictments Act 1915—rule 9 and section 4 of which provided for joinder in the same indictment of offences founded on the same facts or forming or being part of a series of offences of the same or similar character.

Lord Justice Nicholls and Mr Justice Canfield so held on December 9 dismissing an appeal by Westminster City Council from Mr Justice McCowan who, on an application for judicial review by Mr James Hazan, had ordered that the council should certify November 30, 1982 as the certified date for the purposes of section 75(6) of the Housing Act 1974, and had granted Mr Hazan a declaration that the council should pay him the balance of the moneys remaining due to him in respect of a home improvement grant approved by them and relating to premises at 9 Thornage Road, Maiden Vale, London.

If he had done so the appalling waste of time and money which had ensued from the misdrafting of the indictment would not have occurred.

Before arraignment counsel for the defendant warned prosecuting counsel that the indictment was invalid. He rightly conceded that but for his submission, the assistant recorder used power to order independent trials of the offences, as he stated under section 5(3) of the 1915 Act.

The assistant recorder was wrong in his interpretation of section 5(3) and acted without jurisdiction.

As to what followed it could in no sense be said that a valid trial had been held at any time. *R v Rose* (1982) AC 822, 833 per Lord Diplock, was not drawn to the court's attention in *R v Bell* (1984) 8 Cr App R 305 where the conviction was















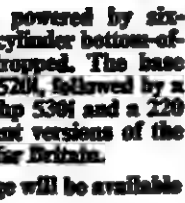
# BMW out-performs its rivals

## The new 5 series is unveiled



Back in May I criticized the ride and road noise of a 735i Special Equipment. BMW said it was probably due to the very low aspect ratio Michelin TRX 240/40 steel radials fitted and I should try a 7-Series on more forgiving tyres. The 225/60s on the car seat showed little or no improvement. There was still too much pitter patter from the suspension and the tyre noise was too intrusive for a car of this class.

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## RACING: BAILEY'S NEWBURY WINNER NAPPED TO SET BALL ROLLING AGAIN

## Biloxi Blues can spark Croucher treble

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

Paul Croucher, that industrious jockey who rode a winner at two meetings on the same day 13 days ago, again looks the man to follow at Cheltenham today where Biloxi Blues (12.35), Twin Oaks (2.20) and Mr Frisk (2.55) can reward him with a treble.

Biloxi Blues, who was the first leg of that wholly deserved double, is now napped to set the ball rolling again by winning the first division of the Bristol Novices' Hurdle.

That win at Newbury on Hennessy Gold Cup day was on the cards in view of the way that he had performed at Kempton first time out when runner-up to the subsequent Ascot winner Ave We Go.

With the fourth horse, Slalom, also winning since at Wolverhampton and Sandown, that Kempton form has a really reliable ring to it.

Farm Week, who finished third, has 15 lengths to make up on Biloxi Blues and only a 7lb concession to help him. To

me that task looks improbable.

Tebitto and Rebel Song will not be without their admirers, particularly the latter following an eye-catching run behind Hills Pageant at Newbury. But I still regard Biloxi Blues as the day's banker, especially now that he will be racing over 2½ miles again.

On the prevailing good going, his stable companion Mr Frisk will be a tough nut to crack in the Food Brokers, Ferrero Rocher Chase, even with Golden Friend, Gainsay and Midnight Madness in opposition.

His fall on the course last month was completely out of character and attributable to the decision to hold him up. Since then Kim Bailey's eight-year-old has shown that he is as good as ever by giving Rebel A Bet a five-length beating at Warwick where he adopted his natural style of racing in making the running.

While Gainsay is much better than his effort in the Hennessy depicted, I still pre-

fer a horse in form and Mr Frisk fits that bill to perfection.

Twin Oaks, who is my idea of the likely winner of the BMW Series Final and the second leg of the Croucher treble, impressed when beating Bob Tisdall by 10 lengths in the Kempton qualifier.

As Bob Tisdall had won his two previous races, that was merely confirmation of the great promise that Twin Oaks had shown last season, particularly when he split Foyle Fisherman and Raulin's Jack at Lingfield.

On that Kempton form Lucky Rascal has no chance of reversing the placings with Twin Oaks although to be fair, his subsequent Warwick win from Salehurst showed that he is capable of better.

Latin American's attempt to win the Kingston Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase for a second successive year may be foiled by Tarn, who won on the course in the autumn.

The form of Tarn's most

recent race at Folkestone stands up to the closest inspection as he was trying to concede give a lot of weight to Aquilifer, who has won and been placed second since.

Furthermore, Vodkatin, who finished third, has won since.

When Lord Torenga, my selection for the second division of the Bristol Novices' Hurdle, finished second to Anything Better at Ascot first time out his conqueror was in form.

The fact that he has gone off the bill since should not detract now from Lord Torenga's chance of beating the locally-trained Cone Alone.

Motivator, the winner of the Coral Golden Hurdle Final two seasons ago, is burdened with too much weight of 12 stone in today's qualifier, including an 8lb penalty for winning at Chesham last Saturday.

That will hardly improve his task of giving weight to

ably attempting the impossible at Ascot last time when he was beaten by that up-and-coming young stayer Take No Trash at a difference of 21lb.

Merry Junior has strong claims in the EBF Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle at Doncaster as Chiffada, who beat him at Wolverhampton last time, has since won a good race at Wetherby.

Glen Lochan's chance of winning the Merryman II Novices' Chase is not apparent from his form figures. However, he will be hard to beat if he puts in a clear round. At Haydock last time he was with the easy Newbury winner Dad's Gamble when they both came down at the last fence.

Those preferring a safer bet will probably go for Border Rambler, who hacked up by 25 lengths at Catterick on Monday. However, I intend to give Glen Lochan one last chance, knowing that his trainer Neville Crump is keen to win the race run in memory of his 1960 Grand National winner.



Mr Frisk (right), seen here winning the Fred Withington Novices' Chase at the corresponding Cheltenham meeting 12 months ago, returns to the course today for the Food Brokers Ferrero Rocher Handicap Chase in which he is penalized for his Warwick success eight days ago

## Scheme aimed at improving the future of steeplechasing

By Michael Seely

The Seventh Race Scheme, which is currently under discussion between the Jockey Club, the Racecourse Association and the National Hunt Association, could well play a vital role in helping to preserve the steeplechase from extinction, as their nurseries, the National Hunt flat race and the novice hurdle, are prime targets for the plan.

"It's vital to get experience into your young horses," he said, "and it's getting very difficult to do so. Ideally you like to get three or four runs into them in their first year. But with the enormous fields for novice hurdles, he's likely to be balloted out during the winter. And then when the fields get smaller in the spring, the ground dries up and there's a risk of injury to us. We must have more bumpers."

Jimmy Fitzgerald, a former member of the Race Planning Committee and the trainer of Forgive N' Forget, holds the same opinion, but warns: "We mustn't let it get out of proportion as the other horses have to be provided for as well. But there's still a crying need for more bumpers."

An idea of the scarcity of high class chasers - and hurdlers as well - can be gained from studying the statistics. There are 1,654 chasers in training of which 1,375 are rated from 0-44. At the top end, only 50 are regarded as being within a 30lb weight range of Desert Orchid, with another 229 occupying the intervening bands down to 45. It is no wonder that the better class handicaps have difficulty in filling.

Just to give an idea of the problems involved and also of the needs of the horse population, there are 4,009 hurdlers (71 per cent of the total) of which 3,705 are rated 0-44. Of the

remainder only 49 are considered to be within 30lb of See You Then, the champion hurdler.

North of the border, David McHugh, clerk of the course at Ayr, Kelso and Edinburgh, presides over the Elysian fields of the embryo chasing star. At Edinburgh on January 7, for example, the seven-race programme will include a bumper, a novice chase and two novice hurdles. One of these, for five-year-olds and upwards, is over 2½ miles and confined to horses that have not won a Flat race, and the other is for four-year-olds.

"We try and establish a progressive programme," he said. "In the first year there are bumpers. Then for the second season, novice hurdles run over two miles six furlongs for horses that may lack for speed over shorter distances. And then for third-season horses, we have a good supply of novice chases over 2½ and three miles."

Scotland, of course, is in a unique position. Not only is there less pressure from the resident horse population, but the main source of supply is the less precocious animal of which trainers like Arthur Stephenson, Neville Crump and Fitzgerald have a plentiful supply as well as the local farmers, breeders, smaller trainers and permit holders. However, in the south and Midlands, where there are far more stables with a preponderance of animals from the Flat, the situation is entirely different.

Richard Mackenness, secretary of the National Trainers' Federation, said: "The federation thinks there is a lack of central co-ordination from the Jockey Club as there are so many races of the same type taking place together and then there is a big gap."

Sheikh Mohammed's tentative venture into National Hunt racing has taken another step forward with the engagement of top jockey Steve Smith to ride for him at the start of the season.

For Smith Eccles the link is a welcome windfall in a season which has so far brought him precious little luck.

He missed seven weeks with a broken arm and champion trainer Nick Henderson, who retains him, has virtually closed his yard due to worries over his horses' health.

Smith Eccles said yesterday: "It is a privilege to be asked to ride for the Sheikh and a very exciting opening for me, which I obviously hope could lead on to greater things."

Grand National sponsors Sagarm are backing a new series of novice hurdle races in the north, culminating in a final at Ayr on Scottish Grand National day, April 16. The series will have four qualifiers at Ayr, Kelso, Edinburgh and Carlisle. The final of the Sagarm 100 Pipers Championship, as it will be known, will be worth £6,000 to the winner.

Many National Hunt folk view this possibility with concern, fearing that an Arab invasion of their sport could mop up the limited prize money on offer and force smaller owners out of the game.

However, the Sheikh, speaking this week at the Gimcrack

view this possibility with concern, fearing that an Arab invasion of their sport could mop up the limited prize money on offer and force smaller owners out of the game.

Both courses also have fixtures tomorrow when the meetings are Lingfield and Towcester.

Lingfield is expected to go ahead. A course spokesman said: "The first came out of the ground today and no problems are envisaged."

At Towcester, where there was still frost in the ground yesterday afternoon, the stewards will decide this morning whether to hold an inspection at 3pm or wait until 7.30am tomorrow.

Tomorrow's Irish meeting at Punchestown is subject to an 11am inspection today.

## CHELTENHAM

## Selections

By Mandarin

12.35 BILOXI BLUES (nap). 2.20 Twin Oaks. 2.55 Mr Frisk. 1.45 Lord Torenga. 3.30 Prairie Oyster.

By Michael Seely

12.35 BILOXI BLUES (nap). 2.20 Twin Oaks. 2.55 Mr Frisk. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 LORD TORENGA.

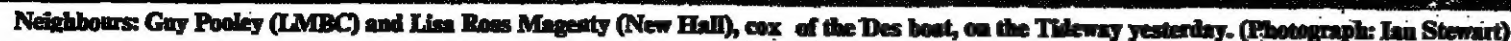
## Going: good (7.30am inspection)

2.35 BRISTOL NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £2,015: 2m 4f (15 runners))	
101 2300-21 BILOXI BLUES 13 (G) (R Olden) A Bailey 5-11-7	P Croucher 89
102 1211 TEBITTO 34 (F) (J Ames) A Turner 4-11-7	Steve Knight 84
103 05-144 IRON GRAY 17 (S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 5-11-4	Mr D Tisdall 78
104 04-121 ANOTHER TROOP 6 (F) (Towse) R Townsend 5-11-0	Mr D Tisdall 77
105 40 AVALON 15 (J) (Pearce) N Ayala 4-11-0	M Ayala 77
106 00 DANCING BARRON 15 (S) (E Gadsden) L Cottrell 6-11-0	R Millman 87
107 00-32 FARM WEEK 17 (S) (Lord Chaworth) G Belling 5-11-0	Mr G Belling 87
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1.10 KENTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (22.85: 2m) (7 runners)

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131 31	





**From John Hennessy  
La Maza**

Even the runaway winner, Mike Smith, of Alabama, confessed afterwards, his face at last shedding its melancholy, that he had been on edge. Yet a final round of 69 over the South course, three under par, left him the winner by three shots. The margin was that close only because his compatriot, John De Forest, of New York State, recorded seven birdies for a round of 65.

**By John Blunsden**

Ford and Cosworth Engineering are designing a new 3.5-litre engine for the 1989 season, of which again Benetton will enjoy

Davidson said he would continue to allow betting at his shows. "I have made a stand," he said. "This is not just for myself, but for other promoters." The former boxer, aged 34, who has been promoting for 12 months, said there would be round-by-round betting at his next show at Hornsey Town Hall on January 19.

LA MANGA QUALIFIERS

This was his fourth term at school, and so far his best achievement has been sixteenth in the European Open at Sunningdale two years ago.

**By Steven Downes**

The ECCU has already named 37 men who it considers ought to be invited to the trial, and already some runners note on that list have made known their concern that they will miss the cut. In theory, the final date for performances to be considered would have been January 9, when the area championships are to be staged. In reality, tomorrow's BAAB annual meeting — possibly the last before a new British federation is formed — could have greater bearing.

## RUGBY UNION: LEADING WELSH CLUB THE VICTIM OF ITS OWN SUCCESS

**By David Hands**  
**Rugby Correspondent**

on Sunday, for the Public School Wanderers against the touring South Koreans at Old Deer Park. He will be at centre alongside Buttmore (Leicester), in a back division with an intriguing pairing at half back of Johnson (Oxford University and Northampton) and Bishop (Pontypool).

by Gerald  
Davies

A three-man WRU sub-committee will meet Tredegar officials, who have permission to

A three-man WRU sub-committee will meet Tredegar officials, who have permission to

### Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Taunton ended their programme with a flourish by beating Canford (28-0) and scor-

**By Jenny MacArthur**

The injury did not prevent him from attending - on crutches - yesterday's "topping-out" ceremony at his new Equestrian Centre at Glentworth Hotel in Perthshire. His plans for the magnificently equipped complex, which is costing £3 million to build, include the staging of a major televised international show in February, 1989, with total prize-money of £75,000.

**Lausanne (AP) —** The Inter-

Two skiers, Ingemar Stenmark and Marc Girardelli, have received final approval to compete in the 1988 Games. They were among 10 sportsmen who received permission from the IOC's executive board. All had either previously competed internationally for other countries or, in Stenmark's case, been banned previously for doping a professional.

**From Ian Macleod, Lenkerhard**

Even members of the Swiss quad, no strangers to these slopes, were alarmed by the course earlier in the week. The first training run had to be abandoned after the descent of the twentieth racer. And, only three Swiss skiers, Walliser, Perelli and Fagnini managed to take every turn.

**By Jung Bailton**

Des, stroked by Guy Pooley, who impressed in the Head of the River Fours, and backed by Cambridge president Jim Garman, could not lift his crew to respond.

So the chief coach, Alan Inns, and his team have much work to do before the Boat Race on April 2. Pooley, stroke of the losing trial eight.

**DES:** P Parker (Kings School Wimbledon and Emmanuel) bow, M Kealey (McBourne University and Pembroke), N Ames (Eton and 1st and 3rd Trinity), M Selish (Shrewsbury and Magdalene), J Peppercall (Oundle and Sydney Sussex), P Hatt (Cheltenham and Selwyn), J Gorman (Shrewsbury and LMBC), G Peoley (Imperial College and LMBC) stroke, L Ross-Magney (Godolphin and Lymington and New Hall) con.  
*Notes a Blue.*

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## By Keith Macklin

There is little doubt that, when that committee considers the referee's report of the match, severe punishment will be inflicted.

Kershaw is particularly incensed about the recent ugly scenes that have disfigured the game, and he also insists that the things are a tiny minority. "For every game like last Sunday's at York there are 150 smashing ones without a hint of trouble."

**every turn  
ill women**

"The course changes every day," Michele Figini, the World Cup champion, said. "It is very hard and technically difficult. It is especially hard to carve the turns, even more so than at the world championships at Crans-Montana."

Set by the American trainer, Konrad Rupprechter, many believe the pista to be the hardest ever devised for women. "It would not shame a men's downhill," a respected Swiss

Not surprisingly, the Swiss have dominated the three completed training runs. Zoe Haas has won two, including yesterday's run in which Miss Walliser, the world champion, was among three who fell.

Michele Gerg, of West Germany, believes that "although it is still tough, it is only dangerous if you do not ski well. We have all have the same chance to train on the course. The middle part is the most difficult as it is bumpy. But I like difficult courses because if you ski well then you finish in leading places."







# Time for cricket to accept need for technology

By A. H. Karker

*Captain of Pakistan in their first 23 Test matches (1952-58); also played for India, Oxford University and Warwickshire. Dominant figure in Pakistan cricket for many years and President of Board of Control 1972-77. Former Punjab Government minister*

The happenings at Lahore during the first Test match and now the unsavoury incident at Faisalabad have established that cricket has staggered behind the revolution in communications and technology.

The television exposure by close-ups and slow-motion replays, watched by millions of people, has made it very hard for the umpires to be seen to perform with as much accuracy and evidence as we the spectators have at our command. Administrators have to take notice of these developments.

Side by side with this, another change has been brewing over the years with the attitude and behaviour of players towards umpires — there is hardly any decision that goes uncontested. There have been errors of judgement and there will be more in future, but in the not so long ago the players would walk off the field when they had, for instance, played and smacked the ball to the keeper. Now we see the batsmen looking away from the umpire and needing to be reminded that they have been given out. Even then, the players tend to walk off reluctantly. Is

this all part of gamesmanship?

The situation demands of the administrators a positive approach to the technology available in 1987, such as computerised handling of bat-and-pad and behind-the-wicket catches. For lbw decisions, the umpires should study a small television set to see the replays, just as the spectators see them, and then, if they still are not too sure, have their decisions on a further, closer examination.

Having looked at the subject of disputed umpiring verdicts, I will now specifically refer to the happenings at Lahore and Faisalabad and Pakistani reaction to the players' gross aberrations.

This is how Gatting's behaviour on Tuesday evening was seen by the viewers — it all happened in a few seconds. Gatting, according to umpire Rana, removed a fielder from his original position without informing either the

batsman or the umpire. Therefore, he declared a dead ball. Gatting was seen furiously charging towards the umpire. This incident was shown in slow motion on television, which confirmed that the England skipper certainly lost control of himself, and there was an apparent exchange of heated words with both pointing fingers at each other.

This and incident is regarded by Pakistanis as indicative of the fact that England are in the wrong. This feeling develops not so much from traditions of cricket but from the general, strong appreciation that umpires must have the last word.

With a supposedly more mature psyche, England have to show greater social restraint rather than a pugnacious street-fighter attitude. Pakistan's views on umpires have the rationale of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This is a reference to the David Constant issue while Pakistan were in England last

summer. Pakistan objected to him but the Test and County Cricket Board included him on the Test list.

Some of the rigid attitudes taken in the current affair stem from the Pakistan national desire to be capable of taking independent decisions. Cricket for the past month has been the centre of all national activities. The nation, being preoccupied with this sport, sees the Test series as a chance for some vindication of its failures in the World Cup in October and November.

The Pakistani team felt extremely frustrated on occasions by ridiculous decisions by umpires. The accountability of the team to the nation is a continuous and lasting one. This being so, the nation demands success stories in greater abundance than in some of the other cricket-playing countries. West Indies in New Zealand and New Zealand in Australia have experienced similar frustrations.

There is another factor. The financial stakes are very high, and the tendency is to win at all costs and to perform at all costs. The shift from non-material to material values is obvious and overwhelming.

In this context, I recall the Kadir Beg incident. This was a case of the 1955 MCC team in Pakistan manhandling an umpire. Luckily, it was resolved within 24 hours and it was possible to commence play on the last day, when Pakistan won the match before lunch. With that happy ending, the people of Pakistan readily forgave and forgot the episode.

Ian Johnson's Australian team of 1956 did well to ask specifically for Kadir Beg to officiate for the Test. I hope the present episode will be forgotten and that the next England team to Pakistan will specifically ask Shakeel and Shakoor Rana to stand as umpires.

## Gatting is sticking to his guns

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Faisalabad

As midnight approached here yesterday, there was still no settlement of the dispute which had already cost a full day's play in the second Test match between England and Pakistan.

After a two-hour meeting in Lahore in the morning between Peter Lush, the England manager, and Pakistani officials, Lush returned to Faisalabad for further consultation with Lord's and with his captain and assistant manager.

It seemed likely by now that unless an agreement was reached last night the current Test match, if not the tour, would have to be cancelled. It is hard to think that anyone has much taste left for it, anyway — players, umpires or spectators.

The sticking point continues to be the apology which Gatting is still asking for from Shakoor Rana, the umpire who, according to the captain, called him a cheat. Shakoor denies this and he has been further antagonized by a broadcast from England which he considers to have been damaging.

We left Peter Lush on Wednesday evening at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, which is the headquarters of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan. He had arrived to find that General Sufar Butt, the president of the board, was out to dinner and unavailable.

Although without any over-

night bag (Lahore is a good two-hour drive from here), he managed to find the last bed at one of the city's two most modern hotels and to arrange a meeting with the general at 10 a.m. yesterday with the board's secretary (Jaz Butt) and the incorrigible Hasib Ahsan in attendance.

This lasted for two hours. Three hours later Lush was back in Faisalabad at the team's hotel looking no less tense and troubled than he had been on Wednesday. "It is a very tough nut to crack," he said. His aim now, I think, was to get Gatting and Shakoor together. The telephone bill to Lord's rose rapidly but still the hours passed with no one seeing the wood for the trees.

There is little doubt that if the situation had been reversed and England, not Pakistan, had been in a hazardous position on a turning pitch, we should have had a full day's play on Wednesday, or that if the Pakistan board had needed to find two new umpires to control the match they could have done so.

To say that Shakoor is not under the authority of the board in the same way that Bird and Constant would be in England is a red herring. Pakistan was going to have their pound of flesh. Without losing face, England could have denied them simply by issuing the apology which Gatting could clearly be seen signalling to a fielder after Salim Malik, the batsman, had taken his stance.

If the match does restart today, I can see plenty of umpire yet to come. Pakistan are saying they will not agree to make up for the full day's play already lost. When play ended on Tuesday they were 106 for five in the first innings in reply to England's 292. They have saved the follow-on and will no doubt play for time when England bat again. To make things more difficult still for England today, there has to be a 90-minute interval for lunch to allow time for prayers (being Friday).

As a random example of what a different cricketing world it is over here, and of the improvisation that prevails it, in the last 25 years 12 of the 22 instances of a batsman being out "handled the ball" have occurred in Pakistan. Six of the last eight cases of out "obstructing the field" and the last five of out "hit the ball twice" have also been in this country.

Yet in fairness to Pakistan it has to be said that they have led the field in advocating neutral umpires for Test matches and the formation of an international panel.

So far as Law 42 (Fair and Unfair Play) goes, the umpire's interpretation of it, however questionable, must be accepted on the field. The time to challenge it is afterwards. On Tuesday evening, Gatting could clearly be seen signalling to a fielder after Salim Malik, the batsman, had taken his stance.

But by having first told Malik what he was up to, Gatting had put himself in the clear. Shakoor's action was needlessly aggressive but, as "the sole judge of fair and unfair play" he was entitled to take it.

Moving fielders after the batsman has settled and the bowler has begun his run-up is not an uncommon practice.

It is only when it is a significant adjustment — such as moving a fielder from slip to leg slip — that it amounts to sharp practice and it is something Gatting would never think of doing. Very few captains would. Gatting is at once intensely combative and completely fair, but he is also, I am afraid, too stubborn for his own good.



Restless day: a pretty pass as Gatting puts the boot in and Shakoor corners himself. (Photographer: Graham Morris)

## Voice of reason from Lord's

By Alan Lee

The fires of resentment may still be burning in Pakistan, but back in St John's Wood yesterday, cricket's hierarchy soberly doused the flames with words and actions urging compromise in the wake of confrontation.

Those who expected fierce recriminations and sweeping disciplinary measures must have thought they had come to the wrong place. Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), emerged pin-striped and purposeful from the body's scheduled meeting to read a statement which had the words "peace and

diplomacy" etched in every sentence.

There was no question of calling the England team home, no mention of sacking the captain, and no reference to cheats of any description. "Every effort must be made to restart the Test match tomorrow morning," the statement went. And if it initially sounded disappointingly flabby, after all the sensational developments in Faisalabad, it was undoubtedly the voice of reason.

Smith has made his name as an expert in the art of saying nothing. He even made a joke about it yesterday when

pressed by a television reporter: "I'm not known for making rash statements," he said, smiling. In this instance, however, Smith's foreign office style, allied to the persuasive charm of Board chairman Raman Subba Row, have been England's strongest artillery in a war that cannot be won.

The TCCB, in true British fashion, spent almost five hours discussing domestic issues and various intricate regulation changes, before the Pakistan crisis was raised in "any other business". The debate lasted no more than 40 minutes and, according to Smith, did not even touch on the widely touted options of abandoning the tour and disciplining Gatting.

Behind the scenes, activity had been deceptively brisk. Smith and Subba Row spent as much time on the telephone in the Board's offices as they spent in their committee room seats. Regular calls, to and from Pakistan, punctuated the day. Each time, the message from London was the same — keep talking, find a solution, and finish the tour.

"If I get any sleep at all tonight," Smith said, "I very much hope to wake up and discover that Pakistan are 127 for nine with everyone

concentrating on the game again."

He conceded, however, that Gatting's behaviour and the wider implications of the spirit in which this series has been conducted, cannot pass without serious investigation. "When the chips come home, it will be necessary to have a major debriefing exercise," he said, though as their scheduled return is late on December 22, it will be January before this is underway.

"The Board's executive committee must decide how best to conduct the inquiry and when it will take place. It is premature to talk of any disciplinary measures at this stage."

Gatting's position as captain may ultimately be in the hands of Peter May, chairman of selectors. May appeared on television yesterday, apparently putting the writing on the wall by stating: "Dissonant on the field is unacceptable under any circumstances." However, he later sought out the reporter concerned and demanded to know why his next remark, one of sympathy for Gatting, had been edited out. The status quo still exists, Gatting remaining in charge — at least until January.

## History of controversy

Gatting and Rana first encountered each other nearly 10 years ago in Karachi during Gatting's first Test match. Shakoor and Amarullah Khan were the umpires in the match when Gatting was out leg-before in both innings — to a goosy by Abdul Qadir in the first innings, offering no stroke, and to a full toss from Iqbal Qasim in the second.

There were six leg-before decisions in England's first innings, equalling the Test record, and, according to

Wisden, "some did not pass without controversy".

When England were next in Pakistan, in 1984, Shakoor and Khizar Hayat umpired the first Test match, which England lost. Gatting was leg-before, padding up, in the second innings and the report speaks of "three controversial decisions". Between these tours Shakoor had experienced English cricket in 1981 under the scheme, now abandoned, that brought two overseas umpires to the county circuit for a summer.

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## The covers going back on

By Alan Lee

Cricket's hugely unpopular experiment with uncovered pitches in championship matches has been scrapped after just one season. As from next summer, all pitches will be fully covered once again.

This measure, passed by a big majority of delegates at yesterday's winter meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, will placate county captains, who were unanimously resentful at being presented with a fait accompli

last year, much against their collective will.

The new regulation will apply to all games in the championship, not exclusively to four-day matches, as had been expected. "It was thought there should be consistency of conditions," explained chief executive Alan Smith.

A reduction in the residential qualification period for players from overseas was also agreed. Instead of 10 years, a

foreigner can now qualify for England in seven, which is especially good news for the gifted Zimbabwean, Graeme Hick.

Hick can now play for England in 1991, while the West Indian, Alvin Kalichman, can theoretically play for England next summer.

His priority, however, and an issue on which he was prepared to take court action, is to establish his status as an English qualified player

## Clough fails to take Hodge back

Brian Clough's attempt to take Steve Hodge back to Nottingham Forest from Tottenham Hotspur has failed. When Clough heard that the England midfielder player could not settle in London, he promptly put in a bid but the rejection from Terry Venables came yesterday.

Blackpool have agreed to pay £75,000 for the Plymouth Argyle midfielder player, Russell Coughlin.

Millwall have signed the forward, Robbie Cooke, from Bradford for £30,000.

Oldham Athletic have sold their utility player, Tony Henry, to Stoke City for £40,000.

Police have fixed a crowd limit of 9,500 for Yeovil Town's FA Cup third round tie against Queens Park Rangers on January 9.

Doncaster Rovers have won their appeal against the deduction of two points by the Football League for postponing a match at Chester on October 10.

## Award for Faldo

Nick Faldo, winner of the Open, and Fatima Whitbread, who took the javelin title at the world athletics championship, last night received their awards as sportsman and sportswoman of the year at the 39th annual dinner of the Sports Writers' Association. Tony Jackson flew in from the United States only hours before the dinner to receive the team award on behalf of the successful European Ryder Cup team. Stephen Hendry, the snooker player, was voted the international newcomer of the year.

## Okamoto top

Ayako Okamoto, the first non-American to lead the money-winning list on the US EPGA tour, was named yesterday as Japan's outstanding professional sports personality in 1987. The Japan Professional Sports Council said Okamoto garnered 38 of 41 votes cast.

## Travers out

Dan Travers, the Commonwealth Games gold medal winner, has been forced out of this weekend's Sun Life invitation badminton tournament at Bishopbriggs through injury. The stomach muscle strain he sustained at last week's Welsh open championships proved more serious than was first thought.

## New setback

Leigh Rugby League club, presently struggling, have suffered a new setback with the resignation of Derek Harley, a director. Leigh, who have won only two of their last 11 games, have recently received transfer requests from three top players.

## Seeded top

Clare Wood, the Wightman Cup player, will be the top seed in the annual Christmas tournament organized by the British Women's Tennis Association. The event will be played at Queen's Club, West Kensington, from December 14 to 17.

## Getting closer

Oldham, the second division Rugby League leaders, have increased their bid for Mike Ford, the Leigh scrum half, from £30,000 to £45,000.

## Harris exploits decline

By Colin McQuillan

It comes as no surprise to those who have followed his splendid junior career that Del Harris is the young professional who has best exploited the most open InterCity national squash championships for years, at Bristol.

With the 10-year domination of Philip Kenyon and Gwynn Bruns plainly ending, an eager group of players recognized 1987 as a year in which they might enhance their careers with the national title.

Harris, aged 18 and seeded ninth, was among the anticipated group. His increasingly impressive removal from successive rounds of the defending British champion, Bryna Beeson, the Welsh champion, Adrian Davies, and the top seed, Neil Harvey, confirmed in the most forceful manner his real potential at world-class level.

Ashley-Naylor, aged 27 and

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